

UN Chronicle

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Kuwait : The Crisis

2
Historic
Security Council Action

Department of Public Information
United Nations

'The first full-scale test ...'

Cover Photo: "Nowhere has the gulf between theory and practice been so evident as in the primary function of the UN, the maintenance of international peace and security", Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar lamented a few years ago. Charter provisions for this purpose, based primarily on the activity of the Security Council and the unanimity of its permanent members, have never yet been permitted to function fully, he added.

But times may be changing. The Council reacted swiftly to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait by adopting 10 resolutions between 2 August and 29 October. For the UN, this was the "first full-scale test of its capacity to deal with an act of invasion and annexation" through collective action, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar asserted on 18 September. If Council measures succeeded now, therefore deterring such acts in the future, it could be a "historic turning point", he said. The cover photograph of the Council voting was taken by UN staff photographer John Isaac.

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VOLUME XXVII

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CONTENTS

July — September 1990



Central America: After peace, development (pp.31-36)



General Assembly: Forty-fifth session starts (p.40-47)

COVER SECTION: (pp.4-22)

Kuwait: The Crisis

- *Security Council reacts to Iraqi invasion and annexation* (p.4)
- *Half a million stranded in the sand* (p.8)
- *The UN Acts: A chronology of the crisis* (p.9)

Political developments

Iran-Iraq (p.23)	Cyprus (p.29)
Middle East (p.24)	Afghanistan (p.30)
Cambodia (p.25)	South Africa (p.37)
Western Sahara (p.28)	Decolonization (p.39)

Special coverage

Central America—Peace and development (p.31)
General Assembly: The forty-fifth session
opens (p.40)

Other news

Conference on Disarmament (p.48) NPT Review
Conference (p.50) Law of the Sea (p.51)
Second LDC Conference (p.53) Eighth Crime
Congress (p.57) Economic and Social Council (p.59)
Human rights (p.62) Environment and develop-
ment (p.63) World Summit for Children (p.64)

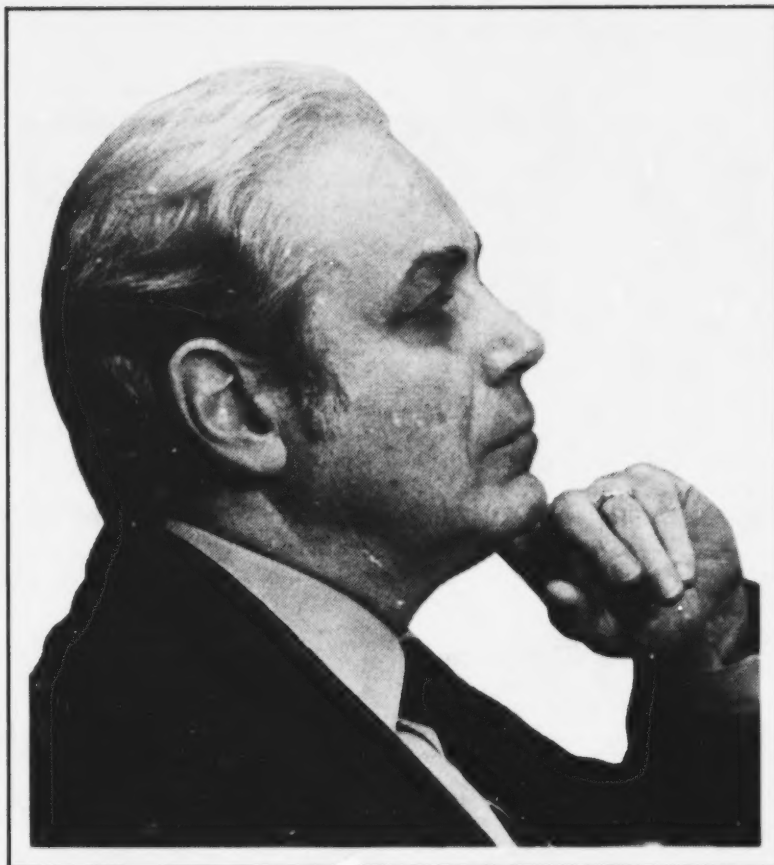
Features: AIDS toll rising, women
and children hit hard (p.66)
The 'Night Delegates' (p.70)
Art at the UN (p.73)

IN EVERY ISSUE

The 38th Floor (p.2)
Anti-Apartheid Notes (p.38)
Stamp Corner (p.71)
BookWatch (p.72)

A Look Back—INSTRAW
helping women (p.76)
News Almanac (p.78)
Coming Up (p.80)

THE 38th FLOOR



Excerpts from statements
by UN Secretary-General
Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
made between 1 July
and 30 September 1990

UN Photo 160933

A new era...

An ambitious agenda...

The period we have entered is Janus-faced. It wears both the aspect of hope and the countenance of dangerous unrestraint. In one major segment of world affairs, we have witnessed political change of a phenomenal character. In large parts of the globe, however, the scene continues to be one of simmering resentments, violent collisions and, at best, a precarious peace. The question whether the more beneficial developments of 1989-1990 will have a healthy impact on the totality of the world situation is still unanswered.

The ending of the cold war has meant the abandonment of the many assumptions that throttled progress in international affairs, bred chronic suspicion and fear and polarized the world. The lessons it conveys both for social thought and for purposes of practical policy are manifold. From the viewpoint of the United Nations, however, three of its characteristics have a global significance.

First, the revolutionary developments in Eastern and Central Europe have given powerful expression to two of the cardinal principles of the Charter of the United Nations: self-determination of peoples and respect for human rights.

Second, it has been strikingly demonstrated that a *status quo* based primarily on the military factor is bound to prove fragile.

Third, the larger—and saner—concept of security, encompassing all its dimensions, which has begun to emerge is precisely the one the United Nations has been expounding all through the years. It has been a stable theme at the United Nations that an obsession with military security results in a self-perpetuating arms race, distorts priorities, hampers social and economic progress, constrains political dialogue, affects the institutions of the State to their long-term detriment, and aggravates the sense of insecurity in all nations. What often sounded a voice in the wilderness has now gained a volume and resonance it lacked before.

Thus, the very change that has rendered obsolete the whole architecture of the cold war serves to reveal afresh the design for peace which the United Nations is meant to execute. Nothing in the constructive refashioning that has taken place in Europe nor in the destructive trends exploding elsewhere requires a modification of the purposes and principles of the Organization as laid down in its Charter. In fact, in this respect, the Charter gains richer meaning as political evolution progressively enlarges and clarifies the scope of its principles.

The United Nations, therefore, enters the post-cold war era as a central point of constancy in the midst of flux. Through years of patient effort, it has achieved a complementarity in the working of its different organs which makes it far better fitted to fulfil its onerous tasks. The exercise of the authority of the Security Council in the manner envisaged in the Charter, the many instances of the General Assembly and the Council reinforcing each other's efforts, the close co-operation between the Council as a whole and the Secretary-General, the growing role of the Secretariat as represented by the Secretary-General in undertaking increasingly diversified missions of peace, and the revitalized role being contemplated for the Economic

and Social Council—all these testify to a strengthening of the institutions embodied in the Organization.

With its ability thus enhanced and its relevance emphasized by the process of change, three broad objectives define its mandate. It has to try to eliminate the seeds of war in all areas of the globe and, in so doing, squarely face the fact that new sources of conflict are emerging in our age. It has to serve as the prime instrument for extending the spirit of co-operation to those spheres—economic relations between nations and humanity's social problems—which are seemingly non-political but have profound political implications. It has to strive unrelentingly to ensure that international affairs are governed by the rule of law and universal respect for human rights.

This is an ambitious agenda but a rapidly changing world asks for nothing less.

*From the Report of the Secretary-General
on the Work of the Organization,
16 September 1990*

The golden rule . . . negotiation . . .

In both political problems and in those concerned with economic or social issues, the golden rule is negotiation, because the United Nations must be a place of dialogue, and obviously an organization devoted to the cause of peace will only wish to find a solution for problems through just and permanent negotiations, even when that solution is as complex as in the case of the Iran-Iraq conflict.

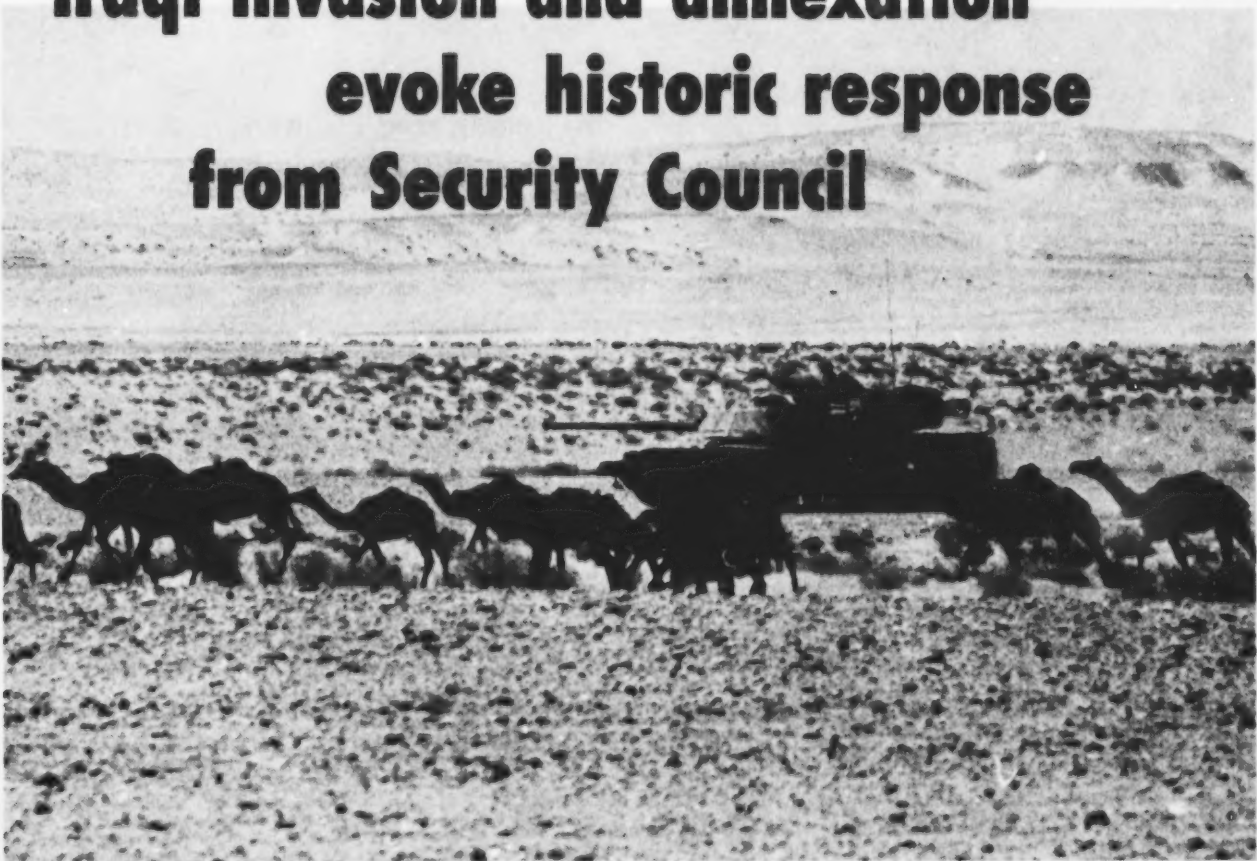
The world is increasingly interdependent, and every day it is more urgent that nations should hold out their hands to other nations in order to solve such enormous global problems as those of the environment, terrorism, drug abuse, over-population (especially in the developing countries) and AIDS. In the twenty-first century these will be the great problems to which priority attention will have to be given. Because even though there may be other problems, such as that of the Middle East for example, which may not be solved before then, real priority should nevertheless be given to the global problems.

*On receiving the Andres Bello Medal
from the Diplomatic Academy,
Santiago, Chile, 20 August*

Kuwait:

The Crisis

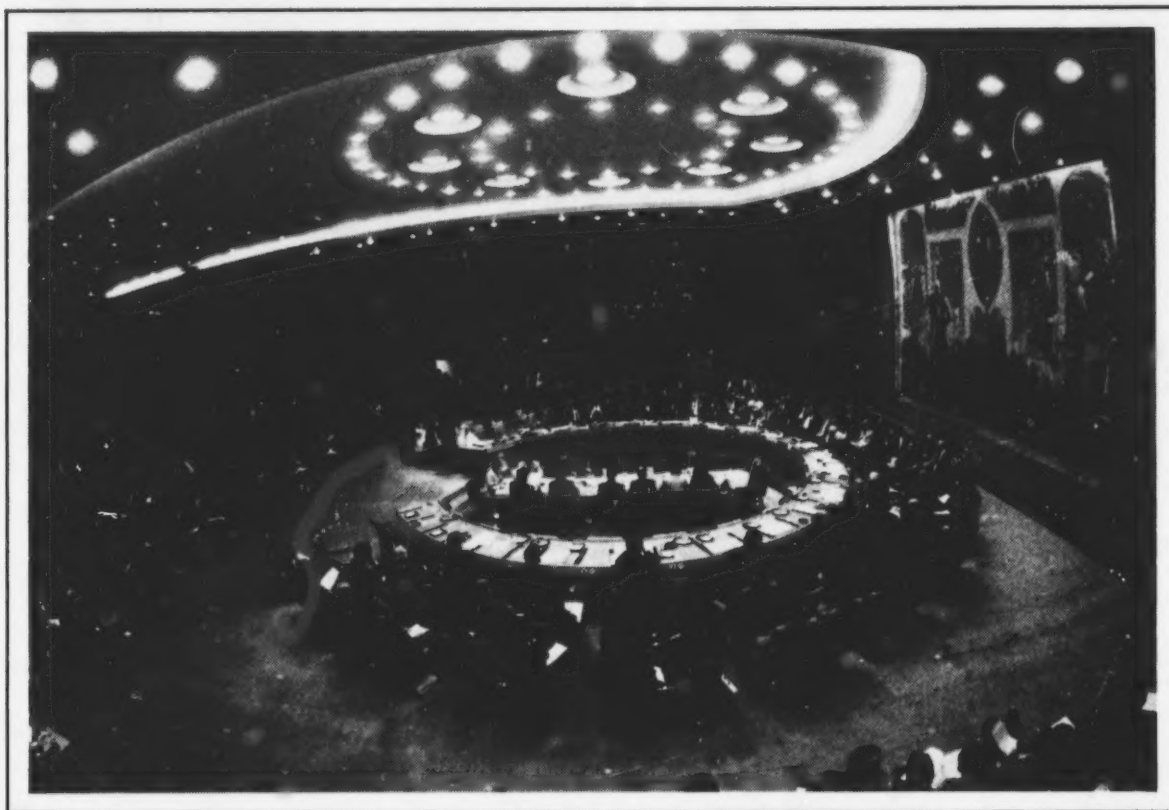
**Iraqi invasion and annexation
evoke historic response
from Security Council**



Reuters/Bettmann

Is a desert war imminent?

Comprehensive mandatory sanctions imposed against Iraq



UN Photo 176286/J. Isaac

Never before in the 45-year history of the United Nations had the Security Council “reacted with such unanimity to an invasion, occupation and purported annexation”, said Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar following Iraq’s takeover of its tiny, oil-rich neighbour, Kuwait, in the early morning hours of 2 August.

Thousands of Iraqi troops had crossed their common border and, according to reports submitted by Kuwait to the UN, had systematically taken over the country, ransacking houses, plundering public coffers and private homes alike, desecrating houses of worship, stealing vehicles, looting banks and businesses, and terrorizing civilians.

Iraq countered that Kuwait had

been “an integral part of Iraq until the First World War”, that it was re-establishing ties with Kuwait which had been severed by “British colonialism” and was “coming to the rescue” of the people of Kuwait, assisting a new “Provisional Free Government of Kuwait” to maintain security and stability.

World opinion was of another view, however. Nearly all UN

Member States supported a series of Security Council resolutions on the situation—10 adopted between 2 August and 29 October—unanimously condemning the invasion, asking for withdrawal, imposing historic comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against Iraq, declaring the annexation “null and void” and endorsing a naval blockade intended to enforce the sanctions.

Other texts dealt with the situation of hostages, called "foreign guests" by Iraq; protection of diplomats and embassies; special aid for nations affected by the embargoes; special arrangements for food and humanitarian supplies to Iraq; and extension of the blockade to air connections.

The Security Council acted swiftly to first reports of the invasion. After convening in the pre-dawn hours of 2 August, it promptly adopted resolution 660 (1990), condemning the invasion, demanding an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq, and calling for immediate and intensive negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait to resolve their differences.

The next day, in a joint statement, the USSR and the United States called for an "international cut-off of all arms supplies to Iraq". The Soviet Union, it was stated, had already suspended arms deliveries and the United States had frozen Iraqi assets.

Also on 3 August, Iraq stated that a withdrawal plan would be put into effect on 5 August, "as long as there emerges no threat to the security of Kuwait or of Iraq". The present and future relationship between these countries "will be determined by the people of Kuwait and the people of Iraq alone", it stated. Kuwait, however, replied on 6 August that there was "absolutely no truth" to Iraq's statement that its forces had begun to withdraw.

After meeting on 6 August, the Council adopted resolution 661 (1990), imposing comprehensive economic sanctions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter and asking for an end to Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. A special committee, created to monitor the sanctions process, first met on 9 August.

The United States on 9 August reported to the Security Council its deployment of military forces



**Ambassador Mohammad A. Abulhasan of Kuwait
addressing the Council on 2 August.**



**Ambassador Sabah Talat Kadrat of Iraq
at the pre-dawn session.**

to the Persian Gulf region "in exercise of the inherent right of individual and collective self-defence", recognized in Article 51 of the UN Charter, in response to developments and requests from Governments in the region, including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Other countries subsequently made similar reports of deployment of forces to the area.

That same day, the Council adopted a third resolution (662 (1990)) on the crisis declaring Iraq's annexation of Kuwait as "null and void".

On 18 August, resolution 664 (1990) was adopted, demanding that Iraq permit and facilitate the

immediate departure from Iraq and Kuwait of third-country nationals and that no action be taken to jeopardize their safety, security or health. The Council also demanded that Iraq rescind its orders to close diplomatic and consular missions in Kuwait and withdraw immunity for their personnel.

Following reports from the United States that its forces and those of other Governments, at Kuwait's request, were intercepting vessels seeking to trade with Iraq and Kuwait in violation of UN-imposed sanctions, the Council on 25 August endorsed a naval

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UN Photo/176135/M. Grant

blockade by adopting resolution 665 (1990). States were asked to use the Council's long-inactive Military Staff Committee to co-ordinate their actions.

Some three weeks later, on 13 September, the Council convened again, this time to adopt resolution 666 (1990), dealing with humanitarian needs arising from the imposition of sanctions. It asked the Secretary-General to obtain information in that regard, particularly as to children under 15 years of age, expectant mothers, maternity cases, the sick and the elderly. Iraq was asked, at the same time, to ensure the safety of "third State nationals".

On 16 September, resolution 667 (1990) was adopted, strongly condemning "aggressive acts" by Iraq against diplomatic premises and personnel in Kuwait and demanding the release of foreign nationals.

Eight days later, on 24 September, the Council dealt with an increasing number of requests for assistance to countries affected by the sanctions process and adopted resolution 669 (1990), entrusting the Sanctions Committee established under resolution 661 to act on those requests.

A ninth resolution (670 (1990)) was adopted on 25 September at a Council session presided by USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and attended by many other Foreign Ministers. The 13-operative paragraph text confirmed that sanctions applied to all means of transport, including aircraft, and spelled out specific exceptions. The Council again called for strict and complete compliance with the embargoes. On 29 October, a tenth Council resolution (674 (1990)) on hostage protection was adopted.

Economic sanctions had been invoked by the UN against a Member State in only two situations previously: a series of embargoes against Southern Rhodesia (which became independent Zimbabwe) between 1966 and 1977

and an arms embargo against South Africa in 1977.

Though the outcome of the current crisis might not be predictable at the moment, the Secretary-General reported on 16 September that the Council's resolutions were "bound to remain of definitive importance in the application of the rule of law in safeguarding the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Member States".

Following a 28 September meeting with the Secretary-General, the Foreign Ministers of the five permanent members of the Security Council—China, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States—welcomed the "firm and decisive" role played by the UN and the good offices of the Secretary-General. They reaffirmed their support for relevant Security Council resolutions and re-emphasized their commitment to seek together, in full compliance with those resolutions, a peaceful solution of the crisis.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said on 4 October that the grave situation created by the invasion of Kuwait posed a dramatic challenge to the

entire international community, which must be resolved on the basis of Charter principles and Council resolutions. "A great deal relating to the situation in the Middle East as a whole, including the question of Palestine, will depend on the manner in which it is resolved", he added.

At the end of August, the Secretary-General launched his own diplomatic initiative by holding extensive talks in Amman, Jordan, with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. On 3 September, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar met in Paris with King Hussein of Jordan to discuss their respective diplomatic efforts and reported on his talks to the Council on 6 September.

On 12 September, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar appointed Sadruddin Aga Khan as his Personal Representative for Humanitarian Assistance "relating to the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait, in particular the problems of third-country nationals".

Summing up, the Secretary-General described Kuwait's invasion as a "human tragedy of immense proportions, the dimensions of which are still incalculable".



Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar (front centre) addresses the Council on 25 September.

Half a million stranded in the sand



Impact Visuals/C. Carter

Refugees in Jordan desert camp waiting to receive rations.

More than half a million foreigners, mostly Asians, became innocent victims of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Infants, children, women and old and infirm individuals—primarily from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka—who lived in Kuwait and fled that country following the Iraqi move, were trapped for weeks on end in makeshift refugee camps, either on the Iraq-Jordan border or in Jordan. Foreign workers living in Iraq also suffered the same fate.

Painting a gloomy picture of their situation, the UN Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO) said they were “surviving on

minimal food rations without basic sanitation or shelter, in soaring temperatures and forceful desert winds”. Some died in pitiful conditions in the camps.

However, thanks to a vast international effort involving the UN, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the countries of their origin, most of them had been able to return to their homelands by the third week of October.

UN agencies were working in the area “to contain human suffering as far as possible”, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said on 12 September, when he announced the appointment of Sadruddin Aga Khan to co-ordinate the humanitarian effort.

Since the beginning of the crisis, UNDRO worked closely with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to co-ordinate assistance to displaced persons.

Others also working in the area were the UN Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the UN Development Programme.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Organization for Migration and other NGOs also participated in the effort.

The UN Acts

2 AUGUST

• RESOLUTION 660 •

**Pre-dawn Council meeting,
condemnation,
call for withdrawal**



In an emergency meeting convened just before dawn on 2 August, shortly after Iraqi troops entered Kuwait, the Security Council condemned the Iraqi invasion and demanded that Iraq immediately and unconditionally withdraw all its forces to the positions in which they had been located on 1 August.

The Council called on Iraq and Kuwait to begin immediately intensive negotiations to resolve their differences and supported all efforts in that regard, especially those of the League of Arab States.

Resolution 660 (1990) was adopted by 14 votes in favour to none against. Yemen did not participate in the vote, explaining that its representative had not received instructions from his Government.

In preambular paragraphs, the Council said it was "alarmed by the invasion of Kuwait" by Iraq's military forces on 2 August. It determined that there existed "a breach of international peace and security as regards the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait" and affirmed that it was acting under Articles 39 and 40 of Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which deal with action with respect to

"threat to the peace, breach of the peace, and act of aggression".

The resolution was sponsored by Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Malaysia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Council met in response to Kuwait's urgent request (S/21423), as well as a similar request from the United States (S/21424).

Kuwait: 'A false and unwarranted pretext to invade'

Mohammad A. Abulhasan of Kuwait said a sisterly country, Iraq, had occupied Kuwait at dawn, with Iraqi forces reaching Kuwait's populated area. Kuwait was "exposed" to military invasion and to the "overthrow of all its constitutional institutions". The Emir, the Prime Minister and the Government of Kuwait remained in control in the country and were defending its security, he said. Iraq's pretext for invading an independent, sovereign State was false and unwarranted.

It was "appalling", he went on, that the invasion should come less than a day after a round of high-level talks between Iraq and Kuwait in Saudi Arabia, at which all points of view and disagreements between the two countries were discussed. Kuwait had expressed its willingness to continue bilateral negotiations to reach a just and honourable solution that would take into account the legitimate rights of both countries. "The only way to deal with this matter ... is to solve the problem by peaceful means and negotiations, and not through the use of force."

Iraq: 'It's an internal matter'

Sabah Talat Kadrat of Iraq replied: "The events taking place in Kuwait are internal matters which have no relation to Iraq." The "Free Provisional Government of Kuwait" had asked Iraq to assist it to establish security and order "so that the Kuwaitis would not have to suffer". Iraq, which desired good-neighbourly relations with Kuwait, was providing such assistance "solely on that basis".

Iraqi forces would withdraw as soon as order had been restored. Iraq rejected the "flagrant intervention" by the United States in those events, which was further evidence of the "co-ordination and collusion" between the United States Government and the previous Government of Kuwait. Iraq hoped that order would be swiftly restored in Kuwait and that the Kuwaitis themselves would decide upon their future, free from any outside intervention.

'Big Five': From condemnation to dialogue



Mr. Pickering of the United States.

Thomas R. Pickering of the United States said his country strongly condemned the Iraqi military invasion of Kuwait and called for the immediate unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces. It deplored the "blatant" use of military aggression, which was "completely unprovoked", as well as the violation of the UN Charter. United States policy had been to support every diplomatic effort to resolve the crisis. He called for an end to "this heinous act of the use of military force".



Mr. Blanc of France.

Pierre-Louis Blanc of France said that dialogue was the only possible means for resolving the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait. He "most firmly" deplored the fact that Iraq had chosen to use force.

UN Photo 176135/M. Grant

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UN Photo 176079/M. Grant



Sir Crispin Tickell of the United Kingdom.

Sir Crispin Tickell of the United Kingdom said: "This is an ugly moment in world affairs." There had been "an invasion from outside", a "phoney *coup d'état* from within" and the "purported establishment of a puppet government". Negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait should have been resumed.

UN Photo 176061/M. Grant



Li Daoyu of China.

Li Daoyu of China said his country regretted the Iraqi attack on Kuwait. Hostilities must cease immediately and Iraqi troops should be withdrawn to where they were before. Both countries should solve their differences peacefully through negotiation.

Valentin V. Lozinskiy of the USSR expressed "profound concern and alarm" over reports of the invasion. His country was "even more concerned by reports . . . that battles are still raging in Kuwait and that blood is being shed". There should be a peaceful solution of all problems between Iraq and Kuwait. The USSR looked



Mr. Lozinskiy of the Soviet Union.

UN Photo 176060/M. Grant

forward to positive results from negotiations and mediation efforts undertaken by regional Arab States.

After the Council meeting, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar issued a statement welcoming the Council's prompt convening and important decision on the problem between the two countries. The events of the past hours were of the "gravest consequence" to the UN and its Member States.

He cited Charter provisions 2.3 and 2.4: "All members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered", and "All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations."

At an extraordinary session on 2 August in Cairo, the League of Arab States asked Arab Heads of State to consider convening an emergency summit meeting to discuss the "Iraqi aggression". It said it rejected "strenuously any foreign intervention or attempt at intervention in Arab affairs".

On 3 August, the Secretary-General met in New York with Iraq's Permanent Representative to the UN, Abdul Amir A. Al-Anbari, and appealed for the full implementation of resolution 660.

On 4 August, the European Community imposed an oil embargo on Iraq and Kuwait and agreed to stop selling arms and military equipment to Iraq.

In a 5 August letter to the Secretary-General (S/21439), Kuwaiti Ambassador Abulhasan said Iraqi forces had adopted "inhuman measures and practices against the Kuwaiti people". They were attempting to "intimidate" the Kuwaiti people for the purpose of "compelling" them to co-operate with the "puppet government installed by the occupation".

6 AUGUST**Mandatory sanctions imposed**

• RESOLUTION 661 •

On 6 August, the Security Council voted to impose mandatory economic sanctions against Iraq in an effort to bring to an end Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

The Council acted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

In adopting resolution 661 (1990), it cited Iraq's failure to withdraw its troops immediately and unconditionally from Kuwaiti territory, as called for in resolution 660, and the usurpation of the authority of the legitimate Government of Kuwait.

The text was adopted by a vote of 13 in favour to none against, with 2 abstentions (Cuba, Yemen).

The sanctions oblige States to prevent the import into their territories of all commodities and products exported from Iraq or Kuwait after 6 August, and to keep their nationals and others operating in their territories from selling or supplying to Iraq or Kuwait any commodities or products, including weapons or any other military equipment. An exception is made for supplies intended strictly for medical purposes and, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs. States must also prevent transfers of funds to Iraq or Kuwait.

The text explicitly states that no provision precludes assistance to the legitimate Government of Kuwait.

States are called on to take appropriate steps to protect that Government's assets and not to recognize any régime set up by the occupying Power.

Iraq, in a letter to the Secretary-General (S/21503), described the sanctions resolution as "unjust", "precipitous", and "iniquitous". The embargo process had the objective from the practical point of view of starving the Iraqi people, Iraq stated.

Under the Charter, the sanctions ordered by the Council are binding on all Member States. The Charter does provide however, in Article 50, for countries to consult the Council if they experience special economic problems due to the imposition of such measures.

The Council also decided to establish a Committee, consisting of all Council members, to examine reports on the progress of implementing the resolution and to seek information from countries regarding the action taken by them in that respect. The Committee is formally known as the "Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait"; informally, it is called the Sanctions Committee.

Resolution 661 was sponsored by Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Malaysia, United Kingdom, United States and Zaire.



Troops from a number of countries assembled in the region, citing "collective self-defense" under Charter Article 51. Shown above, Egyptian troops in Saudi Arabia.

Reuters/Bettmann

Debate in Council

Kuwait told the Council that Iraq was threatening the strategic interests of all countries of the world, of which the Gulf region was one of the most vital regions. International peace and security were threatened. The Iraqis were not withdrawing; they were actually increasing their military presence in Kuwait, he said.

Iraq said the resolution exacerbated the crisis in the Gulf region and impeded the withdrawal of its forces. The text referred to "the invasion by Iraq", a term which allowed for aggression to be committed by a third State in the region. It noted regretfully that a super-Power was trying to use the UN and the Council to achieve its objectives.

The United States said Iraq's President Saddam Hussein had "plunged into crisis the strategically critical area" of the Persian Gulf. Iraqi troop deployments in Kuwait were "enhanced, consolidated" and "dangerously provocative" to other States in the region. Iraq must learn that its disregard for international law would have crippling political and economic costs. Iraq's aggression must be—and would be—stopped.

France stated that the nature of Iraq's military aggression was unacceptable, violating international law and seriously threatening international peace and security.

The United Kingdom stressed that resolution 661

would remain in effect only so long as resolution 660 was not complied with. Economic sanctions were designed to avoid the circumstances in which military action might otherwise arise.

China said Kuwait's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected, and resolution 660 must be implemented immediately, effectively and in real earnest.

The USSR believed that "no matters in dispute, however complicated they may be, can justify the use of force". That development went against the interests of Arab States and created further obstacles to the settlement of conflict situations in the Middle East.

Sanctions: 106 countries reply

On 6 September, the Secretary-General reported that 140 replies had been received from 106 countries on measures taken to implement the sanctions. Nine States—Bulgaria, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Philippines, Romania, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Yugoslavia—indicated they were confronted with special economic problems in carrying out resolution 661. In accordance with Article 50, they had requested consultations with the Council with regard to a solution of those problems. Two States—Sudan and Yemen—also indicated their intention to consult the Council in due course.

What the Charter says

Chapter VII of the UN Charter (Articles 39 through 42) were invoked by the Security Council in its action on the Gulf crisis. This is what it says:

Article 39: The Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Article 40: In order to prevent an aggravation of the situation the Council may, before making the recommendations or deciding upon the measures provided for in Article 39, call upon the parties concerned to comply with such provisional measures as it deems necessary or desirable. Such provisional measures shall be without prejudice to the rights, claims, or position of the parties concerned. The Security Council shall duly take account of failure to comply with such provisional measures.

Article 41: The Security Council may decide what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions, and it may call upon the Members of the United Nations to apply such measures. These may include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations.

Article 42: Should the Security Council consider that measures provided for in Article 41 would be inadequate or have proved to be inadequate, it may take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations.

9 AUGUST

• RESOLUTION 662 •

Kuwait's 'annexation' declared null and void

On 9 August, the Security Council unanimously considered Iraq's annexation of Kuwait to be null and void and demanded that Iraq "rescind its actions purporting to annex Kuwait".

In adopting resolution 662 (1990), it called on States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize that annexation and to refrain from any action that might be interpreted as an indirect recognition of the annexation.

Kuwait told the Council that before its invasion, Iraq had made a commitment that it would not commit aggression against Kuwait, let alone invade it. Iraq's aggression would not limit itself to Kuwait's boundary. "Its tyranny, blackmailing and terrorism would spread to include all States in the region and threaten peace in the world."

Iraq said that it respected the territorial integrity of all neighbouring Arab States, including Saudi Arabia. It reaffirmed that the unity of Iraq and Kuwait was "indestructible". It was an "eternal and irreversible unity".

Oman, speaking on behalf of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), said Iraq's annexation of Kuwait was an "act of defiance against the wishes of the international community", in total disregard of the UN Charter. The GCC did not recognize such annexation.

The United States also did not recognize Iraq's "outrageous and unlawful" declaration that Kuwait was part of Iraq. It supported the legitimate Government of Kuwait. "We cannot allow sovereign States Members of the United Nations to be swallowed up."

France said Iraq's announcement of the "merger" of Iraq and Kuwait was an "extremely serious decision" which violated international law and the Charter. It called for total condemnation.

The USSR said the efforts of the Arab countries could play a special role in preventing the situation in the Persian Gulf from expanding into an even larger military conflict.

The United Kingdom and China agreed that the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Kuwait must be restored, and that Iraq must withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait.

The Council's Sanctions Committee held its first meeting behind closed doors on 9 August, electing Marjatta Rasi of Finland as its Chairman. Representatives of Canada and Colombia were elected Vice-Chairmen.

Also on 9 August, Iran wrote (S/21473) to the Secretary-General that Iraq's "illegal" annexation of Kuwait was null and void and, as the "major Power in the Persian Gulf region", it could not accept "any alteration in the political geography of the region".



Kuwait City

Reuters/Bettmann Photo

Arab summit asks Iraq to withdraw

On 10 August, the Extraordinary Arab Summit Conference in Cairo called upon Iraq to withdraw its forces immediately from Kuwait and insisted on the restoration of the legitimate Government existing in Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion. It supported measures being taken by Saudi Arabia and the other "Arab States of the Gulf" in exercise of their legitimate right to self-defence, and complied with their request "that Arab forces should be deployed to assist its armed forces in defending its soil and territorial integrity against any external aggression".

In replying (S/21569), Iraq said nine Arab States had opposed or had reservations regarding the Summit results; therefore the resolution was "legally void". The Summit action, it said, was "part of a conspiracy to give an Arab veneer, in the shadow of United States bayonets, to the presence of foreign forces in Arab territory, to supply a legal formula for that presence and to provide cover for the aggression" being planned by the United States and its followers.

12 AUGUST**First Iraqi initiative**

On 12 August, the UN was informed of an initiative (S/21494) by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, calling for simultaneous elaboration of provisions for "the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon, as well as the withdrawal of Syria from Lebanon and the withdrawal of Iraq from Iran, and the formulation of provisions relating to the situation in Kuwait", on the understanding that military arrangements, implemented according to a precise timetable, and all related political arrangements be made on the basis of the same grounds and principles. The "historic rights of Iraq to its territory and the choice of the people of Kuwait will be taken into account", he stated. As a first step, the plan must be applied initially to prior cases of occupation.

Kuwait responded (S/21505) that Iraq in its statement had acknowledged that its occupation of Kuwait "resembles Israel's occupation of Arab territories", thereby revealing itself as "playing the same role as that of the Zionist entity in the Arab region". Iraq had lost credibility by violating its pledge and breaking its word that it would withdraw its forces from Kuwait. Iraq could no longer deceive the Arab and world public opinion "in order to extricate itself from its isolation", Kuwait stated.

16 AUGUST**Vessels intercepted**

On 16 August, the United States informed the Security Council (S/21537) that it had, at Kuwait's request, joined Kuwait in intercepting vessels seeking to trade with Iraq or Kuwait in violation of UN mandatory sanctions. The United States said it would use military force only if necessary and only in a manner proportionate to prevent vessels from violating the sanctions.

Iraq, in a series of letters to the UN, protested the interceptions, calling them "harassment" and "acts of piracy".

On 17 August, Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi declared (S/21560) that orders issued by United States President George Bush to intercept and inspect shipping in the Gulf and neighbouring maritime areas were legally void and violated the UN Charter. Such orders should be issued by the Security Council. If such actions continued, they might lead to a disaster for world peace.

On the same day, Saudi Arabia informed the Secretary-General (S/21554) that the presence of forces of fraternal and other friendly States on Saudi soil was temporary and would end once the reasons for the threats confronting Saudi Arabia were removed. Their mission was entirely defensive and the use of those forces for an act of aggression against any State would not be permitted "in any circumstances whatsoever".

18 AUGUST**UN to Iraq: Let them go!****• RESOLUTION 664 •**

At Italy's request, the Council on 18 August met to consider the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, "particularly on the question of foreign nationals in the two countries". It demanded that Iraq "permit and facilitate" the immediate departure from Kuwait and Iraq of nationals of third countries and grant immediate and continuing access of consular officials to such nationals. It further demanded that Iraq take no action to jeopardize the safety, security or health of such nationals. The Council acted by unanimously adopting resolution 664 (1990).

Reaffirming that Iraq's annexation of Kuwait was null and void, the Council demanded that Iraq rescind its orders that diplomatic and consular missions in Kuwait

be closed, the immunity of their personnel withdrawn, and that it refrain from any such actions in the future.

Kuwait said that Iraq's threat to deprive foreigners of food was "hideous blackmail". It had also threatened to use "innocent, defenceless citizens" as a human shield to protect its military institutions.

Iraq replied that the departure of all foreign nationals living in Iraq depended on the unhindered delivery of food and medicine to Iraq. It would share with foreign nationals whatever food and medicine entered the country. They would also be guaranteed full medical care on an equal footing with Iraqi citizens. Foreign and Arab nationals residing in Iraqi cities were not hostages. The Iraqi people, as a whole,



Impact Visuals/Mark Ludak

Finnish nationals leaving Baghdad hotel.

was "the hostage of American terrorism and is the victim of the food and medicine blockade". The security and safety of foreign nationals were guaranteed if the United States and its allies guaranteed that they would not attack Iraq.

The Secretary-General on 20 August dispatched two emissaries—Virendra Dayal, his Chef de Cabinet,

and Kofi Annan, Assistant Secretary-General in charge of personnel—to Baghdad to look into the situation of foreign nationals and some 300 UN staff members in the region. They made it possible for 80 internationally-recruited UN staff who wished to leave, to do so, on 21 August. The two envoys were also allowed to visit privately with some foreign nationals relocated outside Baghdad.

19 AUGUST

Another Iraqi initiative

On 19 August, Iraqi President Hussein proposed (S/21651) that the Security Council undertake to ensure that the United States withdraws its forces from the region. The Council should also give an undertaking to Saudi Arabia that it would take a collective military stand against Iraq if Iraq attempted any aggression against Saudi Arabia. Simultaneously, Iraq and Saudi Arabia should undertake not to attack each other.

Alternatively, Saddam Hussein proposed that the Council should undertake to guarantee peace and security throughout the region and that foreign forces should withdraw from the "sacred territories in the Hijaz and Najd".

If either proposition was acted upon, "foreigners should be permitted to leave immediately, freely and in accordance with their wishes". If those alternatives were "impossible or unfeasible", he went on, it would be sufficient for Iraq if the United States President announced—"clearly, unequivocally and in writing"—his commitment to withdraw his forces and that of his

allies from Arab territories and Muslim holy places within a specific period. The United States President should also undertake not to use force against Iraq, declare that he respected international law and would not violate it, and immediately lift the embargo. If Iraq's proposals were acted upon, Baghdad would use its constitutional authority to allow the foreigners concerned to leave Iraq as and how they wished.

President Hussein concluded: "The question of Kuwait should be left to the Arabs to be addressed as an Arab issue."

Kuwait replied (S/21566) that Iraq had devised the ruse of seeking to use innocent foreigners as a means of putting pressure on the international community to lift the sanctions. Iraq rejected Kuwait's proposal that an Arab committee be set up to resolve outstanding issues between these countries, on the grounds that the issue was a bilateral affair between Kuwait and Iraq.

Saddam Hussein should immediately and unconditionally withdraw his forces from Kuwait, leaving that country's affairs in the hands of its lawful authority.

**25 AUGUST**• **RESOLUTION 665** •**Naval blockade endorsed**

UPI/BETTMANN

On 25 August, the Security Council adopted resolution 665 (1990), calling on those States "co-operating with the Government of Kuwait, which are deploying maritime forces to the area", to use "such measures commensurate to the specific circumstances" as might be necessary under the Council's authority "to halt all inward and outward maritime shipping in order to inspect and verify their cargoes and destinations" and ensure strict implementation of the sanctions imposed against Iraq on 6 August. The vote was 13 in favour to none against, with 2 abstentions (Cuba, Yemen).

The resolution was sponsored by Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Finland, France, United Kingdom, United States and Zaire.

The Council also invited States to co-operate "with maximum use of political and diplomatic measures" to ensure compliance with resolution 661. States were also asked to co-ordinate their actions using, "as appropriate", mechanisms of the Council's Military Staff Committee.

Closing the loopholes

Kuwait said that by calling for the use of all possible means, including military option, to tighten the sanctions régime imposed against Iraq, resolution 665 closed the loopholes in resolution 661 that had been exploited by Iraq. The new resolution would contribute

to the attainment of Kuwait's legitimate demand that its entire territory and its legitimate Government be restored.

Iraq said the resolution was illegal under the Charter, "unjustifiable" and "void in substance and detail". It was "very dangerous", as it undermined the Council's authority, there being "no real limits or boundaries ensuring the proper use of force on the high seas".

The United States said the authority granted in the "historic and significant decision" was "sufficiently broad to use armed force—indeed, minimum force—depending upon the circumstances which might require it". Council members had no intention for the resolution to encourage military escalation. The text applied strictly to efforts to ensure that the trade sanctions were not violated.

France said the resolution "must not be understood as blanket authorization for the indiscriminate use of force". It was a "question of ensuring respect for the decision on the embargo imposed upon all". In each case, the use of coercion would require notification of the Council.

The USSR said the resolution was intended to expand the array of means available for implementing the sanctions. But measures to implement the resolution must be commensurate to the specific circumstances. Political and diplomatic methods should be employed to the maximum degree possible.

The United Kingdom expressed the hope that it would not be necessary to use force to enforce trade sanctions. However, it was important that shipowners and their captains co-operate fully with naval forces deployed in the area in halting their vessels and permitting the inspection and verification of their cargoes and destinations.

China said that, in the interest of averting escalation of the armed conflict, it was, in principle, against military involvement by big Powers and was not in favour of using force in the name of the UN. That would hinder efforts of the UN and other quarters for a political solution, "leading to further aggravation and complication of the situation".

Kuwait on 2 September informed the Secretary-General (S/21694) that "Iraqi occupation authorities"

continued to remove Kuwait's assets, including property belonging to the State, to public and private institutions and to individuals, as well as the contents of houses, factories, stores, hospitals, academic institutes, schools and universities.

Kuwait also reported (S/21713) that medical equipment used in the intensive care units of many Kuwaiti hospitals had been seized and taken to Baghdad, resulting in the deaths of many patients.

On 9 September, Kuwait told the Secretary-General (S/21730) that Iraqis were "savagely intensifying their inhumane practices against innocent civilians" in Kuwait, including "killings in the streets, in the presence of the victims' families; summary executions; massive, random arrests; and burning and destruction of homes".

13 SEPTEMBER

• RESOLUTION 666 •

Council acts on hunger and suffering

On 13 September, the Security Council, after a two-and-a-half-hour meeting that ended at 1.15 a.m., adopted resolution 666 (1990) concerning the availability of food in Iraq and Kuwait and other needs of "persons who might suffer specially", including children under the age of 15, pregnant women and new mothers, the sick and the elderly. The text was adopted by a vote of 13 in favour to 2 against (Cuba, Yemen).

The Secretary-General was asked to seek, urgently and on a continuing basis, information from relevant UN and other sources in this regard. The Council's Sanctions Committee should be informed regularly of his findings.

The Council decided that if the Committee, after receiving the Secretary-General's reports,

determined that circumstances had arisen in which there was an urgent humanitarian need to supply foodstuffs to Iraq or Kuwait to relieve human suffering, the Committee would report promptly to the Council its decision as to how such need should be met.

In formulating the Council's decisions, the Committee should bear in mind that foodstuffs should be provided through the UN, in co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross or other humanitarian agencies, and distributed by them or under their supervision to ensure that they reach the intended beneficiaries.

The Secretary-General was asked to use his good offices to facilitate the delivery and distribution of foodstuffs to Kuwait and Iraq, in accordance with the provisions of the new and other relevant resolutions.



Andalus Evacuee Camp, Jordan: Passports being returned to Sri Lankans who fled Kuwait.

The Council recalled that resolution 661 did not apply to supplies intended strictly for medical purposes. However, in that connection, it recommended that medical supplies should be exported under the strict supervision of the Government of the exporting State or by "appropriate humanitarian agencies".

Also, the Council expected Iraq to comply with its obligations under resolution 664 in respect of third-State nationals. It reaffirmed that Iraq remained fully responsible for their safety and well-being.

The resolution was sponsored by Canada, Finland, France, the United Kingdom, the United States and the USSR.

Another draft text sponsored by Cuba (*S/21742/Rev.1*) was not adopted. The vote was 3 in favour (China, Cuba, Yemen) to 5 against (Canada, Finland, France, United Kingdom, United States), with 7 abstentions (Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Romania, USSR, Zaire).

By it, the Council would have declared that access to basic foodstuffs and to adequate medical assistance was a fundamental human right to be protected under all circumstances. It would also have decided that, in accordance with that principle, "under no circumstance shall actions be taken", including those resulting from the implementation of resolutions 661 and 665, that might "hinder access of the civilian

population and the foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait to basic foodstuffs, medical supplies and medical assistance".

Iraq rejected resolution 666, stating (*S/21790*) it was meant to "humiliate and tighten the stranglehold" on the Iraqi people who were proud of its "humanitarian heritage and of its outstanding contribution to human civilization". The land of Mesopotamia had been a centre of trade and production when the ancestors of those favouring the resolution "were still living in caves", Iraq said.

On 14 September, the Sanctions Committee considered the situation of hundreds of thousands of Asian and other foreign nationals stranded in Kuwait and Iraq.

It recognized the "exceptionally difficult conditions" affecting those people and appealed for an emergency international relief effort to assist in the evacuation of those nationals from Kuwait and Iraq. The Secretary-General was asked to consider all possible ways for the UN to assist in that effort.

The Committee considered appeals from India, the Philippines and Sri Lanka for international relief efforts to assist thousands of their nationals stranded in Kuwait and Iraq, and urged that these persons be extended emergency international food and other relief aid, while awaiting evacuation.

16 SEPTEMBER

Diplomats must be protected

• RESOLUTION 667 •

 On 16 September, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 667 (1990), strongly condemning "aggressive acts perpetrated by Iraq against diplomatic premises and personnel in Kuwait, including the abduction of foreign nationals who were present in those premises".

It demanded that Iraq immediately protect the safety and well-being of diplomatic and consular personnel and premises in Kuwait and Iraq, and take no action to hinder the performance of their functions, including access to their nationals and the protection of their persons and interests.

The Council said it would also consult urgently to take further concrete measures as soon as possible under Chapter VII of the Charter, in response to Iraq's continued violation of the Charter, Council resolutions and international law.

The resolution was sponsored by Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Finland, France, United Kingdom and Zaire.

The Council met at the request of France (*S/21755*) to discuss the situation, "in view of the grave violations of international law and of the Vienna Conventions on diplomatic and consular relations which Iraq committed by forcibly entering the premises of the embassies of France and other countries in Kuwait and abducting diplomats and foreign nationals who were on those premises".

Similar requests came from Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy (on behalf of the European Community), Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

Iraq said the news of the "claimed intrusion into the residence of the French Ambassador is completely false and unfounded". France had tried to create unfounded tension. Iraq respected the Vienna Conventions on diplomatic and consular relations. The resolution would not promote a peaceful solution, it maintained.

24 SEPTEMBER

• RESOLUTION 669 •

To alleviate economic hardship

On 24 September, the Security Council entrusted its Sanctions Committee with the task of examining requests for assistance from States confronted with special economic problems related to the carrying out of sanctions against Iraq. The Committee is also authorized to make recommendations to the Council President regarding appropriate action in such situations.

The Council acted by unanimously adopting resolution 669 (1990), thus expanding the Committee's original mandate as spelled out in resolution 661 and entrusting it with a task given to the Council by the Charter.

Article 50 of the Charter provides that if preventive or enforcement measures taken by the Council cause a State to be confronted with "special economic problems", that State "shall have the right to consult the Security Council with regard to a solution of those problems".

Also on 24 September, the Council decided to ask the Secretary-General to undertake an immediate assessment of the situation in Jordan with regard to that country's economic problems in connection with the trade embargo against Iraq.

Immediate assistance

On 18 September, the Sanctions Committee appealed to States, on an urgent basis, to provide immediate assistance to Jordan to mitigate the consequences of the difficulties faced by that country as a result of the Persian Gulf crisis.

In a special report to the Council (S/21786), based on information received from Jordan regarding the economic problems it faced in implementing resolution 661, the Committee asked the Secretary-General to "undertake expeditiously, in co-operation with the Government of Jordan, a full assessment with suggestions for appropriate remedies" to those problems.

It also requested the Secretary-General to develop methods for receiving information from States about "contributions which they have made or are prepared to make to alleviate the longer-term hardships confronting Jordan".



Impact Visuals/Dona Binder

An Iraqi rice farmer. The Security Council had acted on the availability of food in Iraq and Kuwait.

'The teeth of the Charter'

Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar said that Iraq's invasion and purported annexation of Kuwait had "evoked a historic response" from the Security Council. In a series of resolutions "without precedent", he said, the Council had "established that such actions, which are in direct contravention of the principles of the Charter and international law, cannot be committed with impunity".

Although Chapter VII of the Charter, which supplies the mandate for the invocation of sanctions, was "originally considered to be its greatest innovation—the teeth of the Charter", the Secretary-General said, "it has never before been applied so comprehensively or with such full backing from Member States".

25 SEPTEMBER

• RESOLUTION 670 •

More sanctions imposed



A shopkeeper in Baghdad, Iraq. An air embargo on Iraq was imposed on 25 September.

Meeting under the presidency of the USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, the Security Council on 25 September adopted resolution 670 (1990), by which it decided that States shall not permit any aircraft to take off from their territory if it would carry any cargo to or from Iraq or Kuwait, other than food for humanitarian purposes authorized by the Council or its Sanctions Committee or supplies intended strictly for medical purposes or for the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG).

The Council further decided that States shall deny overflight permission to any aircraft destined for Iraq or Kuwait, unless the aircraft lands at a designated airfield for inspection to ensure that its cargo is not in violation of resolutions 661 or 670. Other exceptions to overflight denial are allowed if the flight has been approved by the Sanctions Committee or is certified by the UN as solely for the purposes of UNIIMOG.

The resolution charged each State with taking measures necessary to ensure compliance with the Council's resolutions by any aircraft registered in its territory or operated by an operator whose principal place of business or permanent residence is in its territory. Further, States should notify the Sanctions Committee of any flight between their territories and Iraq or Kuwait to which the requirement to land does not apply, and the purpose for such a flight.

The resolution calls on States to detain any ships of Iraqi registry which enter their ports and were being or had been used in violation of resolution 661, or to deny such ships entrance to their ports except in circumstances recognized under international law as necessary to safeguard human life.

The resolution reminds States of their obligations under resolution 661 regarding the freezing of Iraqi assets and the protection of the assets of the legitimate Government of Kuwait. Further, States are called on to inform the Sanctions Committee of their actions in implementing resolution 670. The Council affirms that all parts of the UN system are required to take measures as may be necessary to give effect to resolutions 661 and 670.

The Council decided that, in the event of evasion of the provisions of resolutions 661 or 670 by a State or its nationals or through its territory, it would consider measures against the State in question.

The vote on the resolution was 14 in favour to 1 against (Cuba). It was sponsored by Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Finland, France, Romania, USSR, United Kingdom, United States and Zaire.

Thirteen of the Council's 15 members, including all five permanent members, were represented at the Foreign Minister level. It was the third time in the Organization's history that Foreign Ministers of all permanent members had attended a Security Council meeting. Iraq did not speak at the meeting.

"A momentous significance well beyond the crisis. . ."

Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar told the Council that the decisions taken at the meeting, like those to which they were a sequel, would have a momentous significance well beyond the crisis that had formed their context.

During the weeks since 2 August, the Council had found itself shouldering the heavy responsibility which, in earlier circumstances, it was unable to exercise. The assurance that needed to accompany it was that the Council viewed its responsibility as not only that of restoring peace but of upholding and maintaining peace with justice. The power at the Council's disposal was the power of principle. Principles must be consistently applied and the Council's actions must be based on equity and perceived to be so.

According to the Secretary-General, the world had not had an experience of enforcement provisions under Chapter VII being used in the manner and on the scale that they were in the present crisis. Now that they were actually applied, the UN was being subjected to an unprecedented test.

The UN needed to demonstrate that: the way of enforcement was qualitatively different from the way of war; as such action issued from a collective engagement, it required a discipline all its own; it strove to minimize undeserved suffering to the extent humanly possible and to search for solutions for the special economic problems confronted by States arising from the carrying out of enforcement measures; what it demanded from the party against which it was employed was not surrender but the righting of the wrong that had been committed; and it did not foreclose diplomatic efforts to arrive at a peaceful solution consistent with Charter principles and the determinations made by the Council.

One wrong could not justify another, the Secretary-General stressed. That emphasis deserved to be sustained until the crisis was peacefully resolved. "It will carry the full force of conviction if we show that our effort to secure the correction of one international wrong does not mean that we leave other wrongs unaddressed."

The world situation generally, and in particular the situation in the Middle East as a whole, presented itself as a "proving ground for our probity in establishing the rule of law". If peace was to be made secure, "justice must have the last word".

To resolve the crisis politically. . .

The Council President, Mr. Shevardnadze, speaking in his capacity as Foreign Minister of the USSR, said the crisis should be resolved politically. Having provided for a solution, the Council should, without delay, concern itself with resolving the problems of Palestine and Lebanon.

Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait, said Iraq must be forced by all means available through the Charter to withdraw all its forces from Kuwait, "unconditionally and without qualification", so that its legitimate Government might return to "resume its mission, thus avoiding a raging conflagration in the region".

Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada of Cuba, explaining his negative vote, said the resolution contained clear threats that military measures presumably would be used against Iraq. The text continued a line of thinking which did not "bring us closer to a settlement of the conflict, but rather closer to a military outbreak".

An 'assault on decency'

James A. Baker III, Secretary of State of the United States, said that if the UN was to fulfil its mission, if peace was to prevail, then Iraq's leader must not be allowed to "gain from his assault on decency" and his assault on "basic human values". He added: "We must reverse Saddam Hussein's brutal aggression."

Roland Dumas, Foreign Minister of France, said his country wanted the Arab world itself to find a political way out of the conflict. The Arab world must ensure that the conditions that gave rise to the crisis did not occur again.

Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, said that by tightening sanctions and making them more effective, the Council was working for the peaceful reversal of aggression and a peaceful end to the crisis.

Qian Qichen, Foreign Minister of China, said the crisis must be resolved politically and by peaceful means. China, in principle, did not favour military involvement in the Gulf by big powers, for such involvement would only make the situation even more complicated.

UNIIMOG mandate renewed, troop withdrawals welcomed

The Security Council on 27 September renewed the mandate of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) until 30 November. In unanimously adopting resolution 671 (1990), the Council also asked the Secretary-General to report before that date on his consultations with the parties involved about UNIIMOG's future and his recommendations on that matter.

On 21 September, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar reported (S/21803) that the withdrawal of Iraqi forces to the borders internationally recognized in the 1975 Treaty concerning the State Frontier and Neighbourly Relations between Iran and Iraq was a "welcome development". It constituted a major step towards the full implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987).

Resolution 598, adopted unanimously on 20 July 1987, calls *inter alia* for a cease-fire between Iran and Iraq; an end to all military actions on land, at sea and in the air; withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized boundaries; dispatch of a team of UN observers to supervise those actions; and release and repatriation of prisoners of war.

Except for a few locations where, in UNIIMOG's view, the forces of each side remained on the wrong side of the border as provided for

in the 1975 Treaty, the withdrawal was nearly completed by 21 August, it was reported. Both sides assured UNIIMOG of their determination not to occupy any part of the other's territory and both Governments sent survey teams, which were currently visiting the entire length of the internationally recognized boundaries.

Iraq began its withdrawal on 17 August, the Secretary-General reported. Since then, UNIIMOG's task had been primarily to monitor that withdrawal. Repatriation of prisoners of war held by each side had also begun.

The Observer Group was established on 9 August 1988 to supervise the UN-sponsored cease-fire and troop withdrawals. It consists of some 400 personnel from 25 countries; its commander is Major-General Slavko Jovic, a national of Yugoslavia.

Since the start of withdrawal, a general calm had prevailed along the boundaries. UNIIMOG was in the process of recording the new

positions occupied on both sides of the internationally recognized boundaries in order to ensure that it would be able to continue to monitor the cease-fire in the post-withdrawal period, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar reported.

UNIIMOG would continue to verify, confirm and supervise the remaining stages of the withdrawal; help the parties resolve any local tensions that might arise; and assist the parties in establishing an area of separation—an area on either side of the border into which each party would agree not to deploy military forces. The principle of such an area of separation had already been accepted by one of the parties and was under study by the other.

Only about 60 per cent of the total number of military observers would be required to perform those tasks.

The Secretary-General informed the Council that he would be reporting separately on his efforts to bring about full implementation of resolution 598 after further contacts with the parties.



UNIIMOG officers in Basrah.

UN Photo 1721504 Isaac

MIDDLE EAST NOTES

A grassroots call for peace in Palestine

Two major symposia held in Geneva by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) adopted declarations calling for a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question.

Alarmed by the massive immigration to Israel from Eastern Europe and the growing number of settlements in the occupied territories, participants in the fourth European Regional NGO Symposium (27-29 August) called on European Governments to make Israel stop such settlements and to allow those immigrants wishing to settle in Europe to do so.

The declaration adopted at the seventh United Nations International NGO Meeting on the Question of Palestine (29-31 August) called for the urgent convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East. Governments

were asked to recognize the right of Palestinians to an independent State. Participants called for international measures to make Israel respect Palestinian rights.

Both gatherings expressed concern over the United States' suspension of dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Israelis, Palestinians attend

Some 350 participants and observers attended the International Meeting, including representatives of the Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace. The European meeting was attended by some 200 people, among them representatives of the Association of Israeli-Palestinian Physicians for Human Rights.

Both meetings were organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, which was set up by the General Assembly in 1975. In a recent interview with the *Diplomatic World Bulletin*, a New York-based monthly, Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services Ronald I. Spiers said the Committee's activities offered the possibility of bringing together Israelis and Palestinians who are willing to talk to each other.

"We are bringing in NGOs, private citizens, Israelis and Palestinians, and Europeans, and they get together in a room and really begin to thrash things out. You see them, in both sides, beginning to get broader perspectives", Mr. Spiers added.

UNIFIL mandate extended until 31 January 1991

The mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has been extended by the Security Council for a further six-month period, until 31 January 1991. The 12-year-old UN peace-keeping force, currently numbering 5,842, is commanded by Lieutenant-General Lars-Eric Wahlgren of Sweden.

In its resolution 659 (1990), adopted unanimously on 31 July, the Council reiterated its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of

Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries. All parties concerned were called on to co-operate fully with UNIFIL in its tasks of confirming the withdrawal of Israeli forces, restoring international peace and security, and assisting the Government of Lebanon in ensuring its effective authority in the area.

Council President Razali Ismail of Malaysia said all members, in reaffirming their commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty within internationally recognized boundaries, had thus asserted that "any State shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner

inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations".

Council members also wanted resolution 425 (1978) implemented "in all its aspects". The resolution called for restoring international peace and security and assisting the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area.

New UNTSO Chief

Major-General Hans Christensen, 58, a national of Finland, has been appointed Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) as of 26 October, replacing Lieutenant-General Martin Vadset of Norway.

Peace in Cambodia

'Big Five' reach final agreement on framework for settlement

Cambodian refugees in Thailand.

The "Big Five"—the permanent members of the Security Council—in August reached a final agreement on a framework for a comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian problem.

At an "Informal Meeting" in Jakarta on 9 and 10 September, convened by France and Indonesia, Co-Chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, the Cambodian parties accepted the framework document in its entirety as the basis for settling the Cambodia conflict.

In a joint statement, they then committed themselves, in full co-operation with all other Conference participants, to elaborating that

framework into a comprehensive political settlement through the processes of the Conference.

The Security Council on 20 September welcomed the formation by the parties to the Cambodia conflict of a Supreme National Council (SNC) and urged SNC members to elect a chairman as soon as possible. It did so by unanimously adopting resolution 668 (1990), after the first SNC meeting was held in Bangkok on 17 and 18 September.

After meeting in New York on 27 and 28 August, the "Big Five"—China, France, the United Kingdom, the USSR and the United States—jointly stated that the framework document was composed of five sections "comprising

the indispensable requirements for such a settlement".

The sections concerned: transitional arrangements regarding the administration of Cambodia during the pre-election period; military arrangements during the transitional period; elections under UN auspices; protection of human rights; and international guarantees.

The Five said the basic principle behind their approach was to enable the Cambodian people to determine their own political future through free and fair elections, organized and conducted by the UN "in a neutral political environment with full respect for the national sovereignty of Cambodia".

Implementation of that approach required full support from all

parties to the conflict, the Five stressed. They urged acceptance of the framework document in its entirety as the basis for settling the Cambodia conflict.

The Five also called on the parties to the conflict to commit themselves to that process and to form a Supreme National Council as soon as possible on the basis outlined in the document.

[The Cambodian parties are: the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Co-operative Cambodia (FUNCINPEC), headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk; the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), led by Son Sann; the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK), led by Khieu Samphan; and the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party, led by Heng Samrin.]

The Security Council, in its 20 September resolution 668 (1990), endorsed the framework for a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict as formulated by the "Big Five" and encouraged their continuing efforts in that regard. It welcomed the acceptance of the framework in its entirety by all the Cambodian parties, and their commitment to elaborating it into a comprehensive political settlement through the Conference processes.

The Council also called on the Conference Co-Chairmen to intensify consultations aimed at reconvening the Conference so that it could elaborate and adopt the settlement and draw up an implementation plan.

States were called upon to support the achievement of a comprehensive political settlement as outlined in the framework. Another call for maximum self-restraint to create a peaceful climate was made.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar was asked to continue to assess the resource implications, timing and other considerations relevant to any UN role in Cambodia.

Secretary-General 'gratified'

Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar on 29 August said he was gratified that the Five had reached agreement, recalling the close contact he had maintained with them since the talks began in January 1990.

He hoped that the Cambodian parties would accept the framework so that peace could be restored in Cambodia. A UN task force, established in February 1990, would proceed with more detailed planning for an eventual UN operation there.

The Five met six times in 1990 to discuss Cambodia, the latest session in August. The other meetings were held on 15 to 16 January, 12 to 13 March and 16 to 17 July in Paris, and on 11 to 12 February and 25 to 26 May in New York. Their aim, they said, was to "define the key elements of a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict based on an enhanced UN role".

The two documents elaborated by the International Conference on Cambodia (Paris, 30 July-30 August 1989) on repatriation of refugees and displaced persons and on reconstruction, taken together with the framework document, outlined a settlement process based on national reconciliation, involving an enhanced UN role that would ensure a just and lasting political solution to the conflict, the Five stated.

The early formation of an SNC would permit that body to designate its representative to occupy the Cambodian seat in the UN and other international organizations, they added.

Exercise 'self-restraint'

Once the Cambodian parties had accepted the framework document and the SNC had been formed, the Paris Conference, which included

all interested parties and the Secretary-General, should be reconvened, the Five affirmed. Its task should be to adopt elements of a comprehensive political settlement and draw up a detailed plan of implementation.

The Secretary-General would transmit to the Security Council the Conference's recommendation that the Council endorse the final agreement on the comprehensive political settlement, thus enabling him to implement it.

As a first step, all parties to the conflict should exercise maximum self-restraint to create the peaceful climate required to achieve and implement such a settlement.

In August, the Five met with the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General Rafaeuddin Ahmed and representatives of countries participating in the Paris Conference regarding the future of the peace process. They agreed to convene another meeting in Paris before mid-October.

In July, the Five had reported "significant progress" on two key elements of a solution based on an enhanced UN role—transitional arrangements regarding the administration of Cambodia during the pre-election period and military arrangements. They agreed to accelerate their work in the remaining three areas—elections, human rights and international guarantees. The time was "past due", they said, for the Cambodian parties to "turn from the battlefield to the negotiating table".

The Five also were briefed on "practical aspects" of any UN operation. Four UN fact-finding missions to Cambodia have taken place since February 1990.

In May, the Five jointly stated that only a comprehensive political settlement would bring lasting peace and stability to Cambodia. Earlier, they had outlined modalities of a settlement involving an enhanced UN role, including

creation of a UN transitional authority in Cambodia which would organize elections. The SNC, it was then stated, would be established as a "unique legitimate body in which national sovereignty and unity would be enshrined".

Cambodian SNC tasks

The Cambodian parties agreed on the nature and functions of the SNC, specifically, that it:

- was the unique legitimate body and source of authority in which, throughout the transitional period, the independence, sovereignty and unity of Cambodia were embodied;
- was composed of representative individuals with authority among the Cambodian people and reflecting all shades of opinion among them;
- would represent Cambodia externally and occupy the seat of Cambodia at the UN, in its specialized agencies and in other international institutions and conferences;
- would, at the time of signature of the comprehensive settlement, delegate to the UN all powers necessary to ensure the implementation of the comprehensive agreement, including those relating to the conduct of free and fair elections and the relevant aspects of the administration of Cambodia; and
- would make all decisions by consensus.

The Cambodian parties agreed to form a 12-member Council including Khieu Samphan; Son Sann; Prince Norodom Ranariddh, son of Prince Sihanouk; and Hun Sen. A suggestion by Prince Sihanouk that the Chairman of the Council be its thirteenth member was accepted.

In his 16 September report on the work of the Organization (A/45/1), the Secretary-General said the establishment of a durable peace in Cambodia would ultimately depend on a genuine national reconciliation among the

Cambodians, as well as on the full support and co-operation of all the parties directly or indirectly involved in "this tragic conflict".

The Secretary-General also said the UN would be prepared to assume in Cambodia any "appropriate role" which was agreed by the parties and approved by the Security Council. However, he emphasized the need to ensure that the mandate that might ultimately be entrusted to the UN was "realistic, clearly defined and practicable in operational terms". It was also essential that the Organization be provided with sufficient resources, "in a timely and assured manner", so that an "efficient operation can be implemented with a reasonable chance of success".

Ad Hoc Committee activities

A delegation of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the 1981 International Conference on Kampuchea, led by Committee Chairman Absa-Claude Diallo of Senegal, visited Japan, Indonesia and Austria from 18 to 31 July. In Jakarta, the delegation assured the Foreign Ministers of the six countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations that the Committee would continue to work for the realization of a comprehensive political settlement.

On 12 September, the Committee reported (A/CONF.109/16) that the long-term interests of all parties to the conflict lay in a negotiated settlement leading to the establishment of a sovereign, independent, neutral and non-aligned Cambodia.

Also on 12 September in New York, donors to the Kampuchean Humanitarian Assistance Programmes pledged \$21,930,201. These included Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Greece, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Norway, Switzerland and the United States.

Indian Ocean Conference proposed

A provisional agenda for the Conference on the Indian Ocean, scheduled for 1992 in Sri Lanka, and a draft resolution calling for the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean to complete preparations for that Conference in 1991, were the principal output of the 45-member *Ad Hoc* Committee's report at its second and final 1990 session (New York, 2-13 July).

By the draft resolution, the General Assembly would note with satisfaction the progress made by the Committee in preparing for the Conference, especially with respect to its draft agenda and rules of procedure, and the identification of substantive elements that might be considered in a Conference final document. It also calls for the Committee to hold two sessions in 1991 to complete its preparatory work.

This year, France, the United Kingdom and the United States withdrew from the Committee. Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and Norway did not participate.

Ad Hoc Committee Chairman Daya Perera of Sri Lanka reported that, after consultations with those nine States, he believed that their absence should neither hinder the Committee's work nor divert it from its task. He would strive to persuade those States to resume their participation in Conference preparations.

Mission sent to Territory

Secretary-General reports progress towards just solution for Western Sahara



UN Photo 176065

A group of tribal leaders from Western Sahara at the UN office in Geneva.

Following five days of talks in July with representatives of Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO), Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar reported progress towards a just and honourable solution of the question of Western Sahara through a credible referendum.

Held from 5 to 9 July in Geneva, the discussions centred on how best to implement the peace plan for Western Sahara as unanimously approved by the Security Council on 27 June in resolution 658 (1990). Under it, the United Nations would supervise a ceasefire between Morocco and POLISARIO and conduct a referendum by

which the Western Sahara people would choose between independence and integration with Morocco.

The talks were reported to have been held in a "cordial atmosphere". During this time, the Secretary-General received Foreign Minister Abdelatif Filali of Morocco and Mustafa Bechir Sayed, in charge of the POLISARIO Front's external relations.

The Secretary-General and the parties examined, among other things, the adoption of a code of conduct for the referendum campaign period, the extension of suspension of military operations and a direct dialogue between the two parties, under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General.

In a message delivered on 9 July to the Organization of African Unity's Assembly of Heads of State and Government summit in Addis Ababa, the Secretary-General stated: "We have now reached a point where we have not only an agreed set of proposals for the settlement of the problem but also a precise plan and time-frame for their implementation."

The Secretary-General said that he intended to dispatch a technical survey team to the Territory. "A crucial element in this exercise will be the process of identifying who would be eligible to vote", Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar observed.

The Territory's 38 tribal leaders met in Geneva in early June with the Secretary-General's senior aides to discuss the preliminary modalities for such an operation.

On 13 July, the Secretary-General briefed the Security Council on all aspects of the situation regarding Western Sahara.

Mission

Beginning 29 July, the UN Technical Survey Mission to Western Sahara and Neighbouring Countries visited Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Western Sahara for a two-week period. Mission members met with senior officials of the three countries, as well as with high-ranking POLISARIO officials.

The Mission was to refine administrative aspects of implementing the plan, to obtain information to estimate the cost of the operation and to ascertain available facilities and services to support the operation.

'Stop mutual recriminations'

Security Council endorses Secretary-General's plan



UN Photo 87505

The future of Cyprus is at stake.

Security Council members on 19 July expressed full support for Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar's efforts to assist the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities to reach a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem.

"The time has come to stop mutual recrimination and to concentrate efforts on promoting reconciliation", the Secretary-General had stated in a 12 July report (S/21393). The time had come for all concerned to give proof that they truly wanted to contribute to a solution of the Cyprus problem, he added.

In a statement read out by Council President Razali Ismail of Malaysia during a five-minute open meeting, Council members shared

the Secretary-General's concern over the lack of progress on the issue and endorsed the plan of action contained in his report to the Council on his mission of good offices in Cyprus. They also reaffirmed Council resolution 649 (1990) of 12 March, which had been accepted by both sides, and reiterated the importance they attached to an early negotiated settlement of the problem.

Leaders of the two communities were called upon to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General on the basis of his plan of action and to arrive, "on an urgent basis", at an "agreed outline of an overall agreement". The Secretary-General was requested to make suggestions to assist the two communities in reaching such an agreement.

The parties concerned were also called on to refrain, "especially at this sensitive stage in the process", from any action or statement that could aggravate the situation.

Council members expressed concern over any action which contravened certain parts of Council resolutions 550 (1984) and 649 (1990). By the former, the Council said it considered "attempts to settle any part of (the city of) Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as inadmissible" and called for the "transfer of this area to UN administration". By resolution 649, it referred to the Council's call to parties concerned to refrain from any action that could aggravate the situation.

The Council stated that both communities were called upon to

concentrate their efforts on promoting mutual confidence and reconciliation.

The Secretary-General, who had briefed Council members on Cyprus on 13 July, was to report to the Council by 31 October 1990 on implementation of his action plan.

Separate discussions proposed

The Secretary-General stated that he wanted a meeting with the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities—President George Vassiliou of Cyprus and Rauf Denktash—to agree on an outline and to launch negotiations on an overall agreement. However, it should first be ensured that such a meeting would yield the intended results. He thus proposed that separate discussions take place in

Nicosia to prepare the ground.

In those discussions, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar stated, he would again submit the “headings that had emerged from their talks as a basis for organizing the work of arriving at an agreed outline”. Both sides would also be asked separately to indicate their positions on each of the headings and sub-headings, with a view to completing the outline. Once an outline was within reach, he would invite the two leaders to meet with him to complete that task and to launch negotiations on an overall agreement.

The Secretary General noted a general deterioration in the atmosphere because of recent developments and an increasing sense of frustration, “not least because of the present lack of progress”.

He was sure that the guarantor Powers (Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom) would wish to play a constructive role in creating conditions to facilitate a solution.

Resolution 649 should be acted upon in all its aspects. By it, the Council called for the leaders of the two communities to pursue their efforts to reach freely a mutually acceptable solution of the problem, providing for a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation, in line with their 1977 and 1979 high-level agreements.

In those agreements, the leaders had pledged themselves to establish a bi-communal Federal Republic of Cyprus that would safeguard its independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-alignment, and exclude union, in whole or in part, with any other country and any form of partition or secession.

Struggle continues for international consensus on Afghanistan

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said on 5 July that his Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan, had shuttled from Islamabad to Kabul and was “constantly in touch” with the Americans, the Soviets and all others interested in a solution to the Afghanistan problem.

He told the press in Geneva: “We continue to struggle for an international consensus, a kind of common understanding between the countries which I have mentioned in order to find a formula for attaining at last for Afghanistan a government chosen freely by its people.”

The dialogue had been “open and very fluid with the Americans, the Soviets, the Pakistanis, the Iranians, the Afghans and with the Saudis who also have their say on this Afghan problem”, he added.

“We are working on a daily basis in order to present to the parties

formulae which would enable us to achieve our real objective, that is, to have in Afghanistan a government freely elected by the Afghan people”, he concluded.

Further talks aimed at facilitating the early realization of a comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan, in accordance with the

14 April 1988 Geneva Accords, are continuing.

Since December 1989, Mr. Sevan and Giandomenico Picco, Assistant to the Secretary-General for Special Assignments, had been meeting regularly with Soviet experts and officials from other Governments, including the United States. The focus of their talks had been on ways to reach an international consensus.

On 5 July in New York, the Secretary-General had discussed “Operation Salam” with Sadruddin Aga Khan, Co-ordinator for United Nations Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan.

In a 2 August letter to the Secretary-General (A/45/378), the Afghan Government asked all donor countries, institutions and the UN specifically, to provide “appropriate facilities” for the return home of Afghan refugees.



UNHCR Photo 2002BA, Hollmann

Central America

Progress made in Salvadoran talks, cease-fire target date passes

A significant agreement on improving the human rights situation in war-torn El Salvador was reached during the third round of direct UN-sponsored talks between the Salvadoran Government and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN), held in San José, Costa Rica.

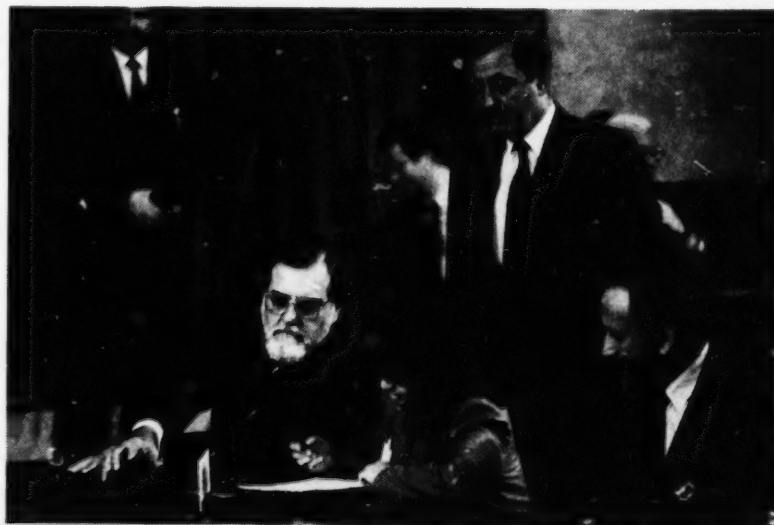
Following the signing of the agreement on 26 July, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said he was "pleased" with the progress and issued the following statement: "For the first time, the parties have reached agreement on a substantive issue, human rights, which is of central importance to the negotiation and to the solution of the decade-long Salvadoran conflict. A broad monitoring role for the United Nations is foreseen in the agreement, once a cease-fire is in place—also under United Nations verification."

But the mid-September target date to produce a cease-fire was missed, as no agreement was reached at the fourth and fifth rounds of talks (17-22 August and 13-18 September). The targeted time-frame was set by the parties at the second round of talks in May in Caracas, Venezuela. Both sides are expected to meet again some time before 4 November, probably in Mexico City.

Alvaro de Soto, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America, is participating in the negotiating process, which was launched in Geneva in April.



Salvadoran Government representatives sign agreement in Geneva on 4 April.



FMLN representatives sign the agreement.

UN Photo 175917

UN Photo 175919

A two-page accord to quickly end the armed conflict, "promote the democratization of the country, guarantee unrestricted respect for human rights and reunify Salvadoran society" was signed on 4 April and UN verification, subject to Security Council approval, was requested. Two rounds of talks followed (16-21 May, Caracas, Venezuela and 21 June, Mexico City).

A substantive agreement

Under the partial "Agreement on Human Rights", the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN committed themselves to "respect and guarantee human rights", including taking "all necessary steps and measures . . . to avoid any act or practice which constitutes an attempt upon the life, integrity, security or freedom of the individual".

The agreement prohibits arrest for the lawful exercise of political rights, bans torture or other "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment" and guarantees the right to associate freely "for ideological, religious, political, economic, labour, social, cultural, sporting or other purposes". The agreement also called for the respect of *habeas corpus*, freedom of the press, freedom of movement and the release of all political prisoners.

The two parties also agreed to submit the human rights plan to UN verification, once a cease-fire was in place for a renewable period of one year. They called for the creation of a UN human rights verification mission, with headquarters in San Salvador.

The Mission's mandate would include receiving reports of human rights violations, visiting "any place or establishment freely and without prior notice", supporting Salvadoran judicial authorities and carrying out an educational campaign using the

Central America security agreement signed

On 31 July, the Deputy Foreign Ministers of the five Central American countries concluded the first meeting of the regional Security Commission by adopting an agreement, a copy of which was sent to the Secretary-General (S/21504).

Under the agreement, the five countries' objectives included creating an equilibrium among the regional armies and defining a new model for security relations "based on co-operation, co-ordination, communication and prevention". They also expressed their acceptance of "the offers of co-operation made by the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States".

media on "human rights and on the function of the mission itself".

The fourth round of talks became stalled on the issue of the armed forces and the future of the Salvadoran army, with no progress made on any other issues.

On 22 August, Mr. de Soto said the topic of the armed forces "is the most difficult item on the agenda, identified at Caracas, of issues on which political agreements would be sought with a view to jointly bringing about a halt to the armed confrontation. The item on the Armed Forces affects all other items".

Despite the setback, he said the talks none the less "have enabled us to identify a number of elements which could enable us to continue putting together, in due course, agreements of a substantive nature".

On 29 August, the Secretary-General asked the Security Council to consider establishing a preparatory office in El Salvador for the UN verification mission. In a letter to the Council (S/21717), Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar stated that the time had come to "initiate preparations so as to undertake the monitoring tasks as soon as circumstances permit".

Finally, during the fifth round of talks, the two parties failed to reach any other agreement. A truce is required in order to establish the office of the UN verification mission.

Human rights in El Salvador, Guatemala

The UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which met from 6 to 30 August in Geneva, took up the subject of human rights in El Salvador and Guatemala.

By a resolution adopted without a vote on 5 September, the Sub-Commission exhorted the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN to "avoid any type of act or practice prejudicial to the life, integrity, security and freedom of persons and to eliminate any form of disappearances and abductions". The Sub-Commission also called for the release of all political prisoners and called on the parties to "give their fullest support" to the UN verification mission.

Finally, the Sub-Commission called on the Salvadoran Government to "continue the investigation into the foul murder of the Rector and seven members of the Central American University".

On the same day, the Sub-Commission, in adopting a resolution without a vote, urged the Government of Guatemala to "intensify its efforts to ensure that the human rights and fundamental freedoms of its citizens are fully respected".

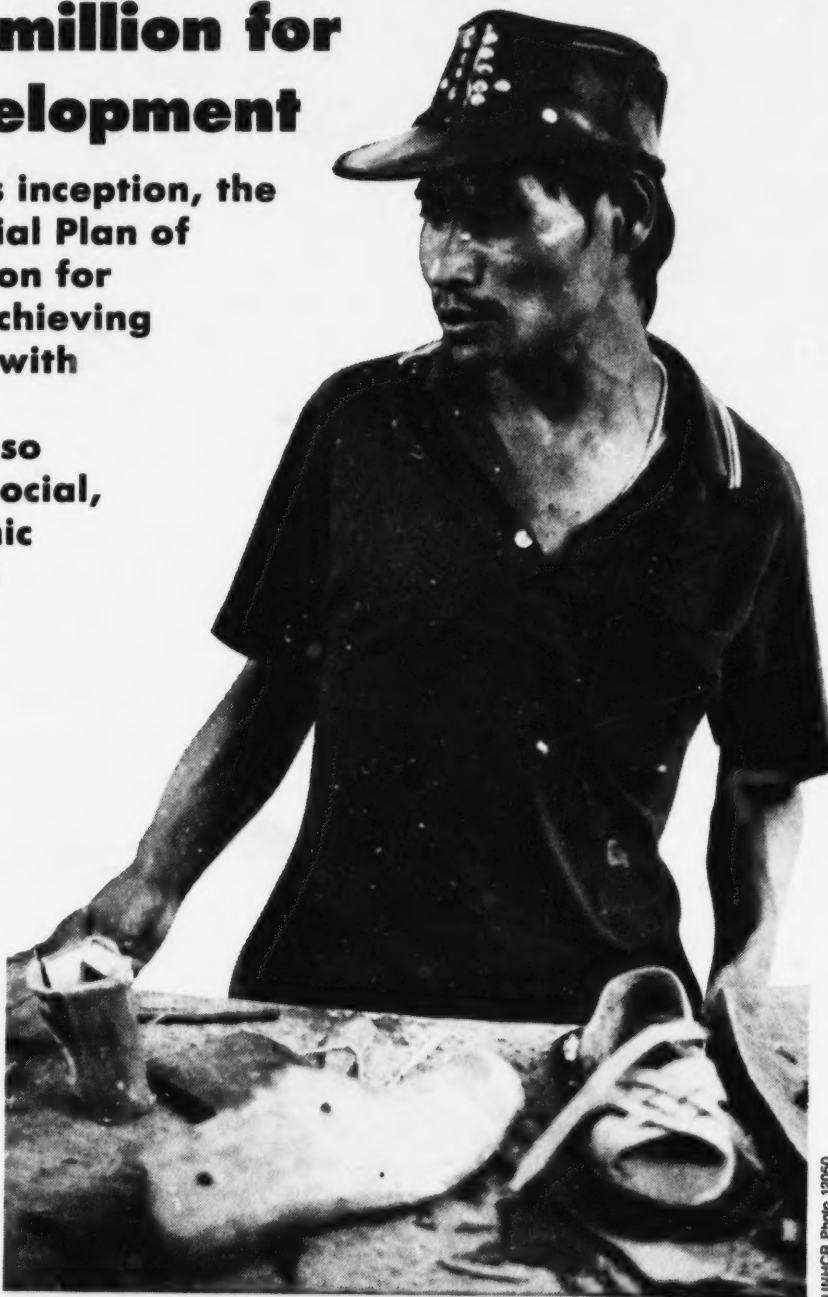
Central American Plan mobilizes over \$400 million for peace, development

Two years after its inception, the United Nations Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America is achieving remarkable results, with over \$400 million in resources mobilized so far to help support social, political and economic development for the troubled region.

The Special Plan was adopted in 1988 by the General Assembly (resolution 42/231) with the goal of mobilizing \$2.3 billion in financial and technical assistance to the region. The job of devising and implementing such a comprehensive, complex effort was assigned to Augusto Ramírez-Ocampo, former Foreign Affairs Minister of Colombia, who now directs all United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) operations in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the rank of Assistant Administrator.

"I am pleased to inform you that the goals of the Special Plan are being satisfactorily attained", Mr. Ramírez-Ocampo told a UNDP conference on 12 June 1990 in Geneva. The Plan, he said, had allowed the UN to "lend important support to the entire political and economic progress towards peace".

The Plan includes an emergency programme and programmes of immediate action and economic reactivation and social development. It also deals with institutional development and management.



UNHCR Photo 12050

Rehabilitation of local industry is among the goals of the Plan.

Strong high-level support

From the beginning, the Plan found strong support at the highest level in the five Central American

countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Several key meetings had been held in the last two years to begin implementation.

The first meeting among Central American Governments and co-operating Governments and institutions was held in Geneva from 4 to 6 July 1989. At this meeting, the Central American Governments indicated their technical and financial needs, while the donor community pointed out their requirements for co-operating in the development process.

In June 1990, the Central American Presidents held their first economic summit meeting in La Antigua, Guatemala. They issued a Declaration and an Economic Plan of Action for Central America, which defines a joint strategy for development with equity. The UN Special Plan will take due account of the goals and priorities of the Presidents' Economic Plan of Action, Mr. Ramírez-Ocampo said.

Since 1988, more than a dozen ministerial and other high-level meetings, held under UNDP auspices, have helped shape, support, co-ordinate and implement the Plan.

Moreover, the Central American Governments and co-operating Governments and institutions have held a series of sectoral and thematic meetings on issues such as the electrical power sector, refugees, returnees and displaced persons.

Forthcoming meetings will deal with health, agriculture, the Central American Monetary Stabilization Fund, micro, small and medium enterprises, telecommunications, nutrition and road networks.

Emergency programme

Immediate assistance to populations uprooted by conflicts in the region is the focus of the emergency programme. One of its first practical results was the Central American Governments' decision to convene an International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA), which adopted a Declaration and a Plan of Con-

certed Action in favour of refugees, returnees and displaced persons (May 1989, Guatemala).

A total of \$121 million was pledged for 59 projects at the First International Meeting of CIREFCA's Follow-Up Committee, held in New York this past June. Donors announced \$98.8 million in pledges for the Plan of Action, which will benefit nearly half a million Central Americans.

Meanwhile, the Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees in Central America began its activities in November 1988, with a contribution announced by Italy; by July 1990, the first \$16 million had been received.

Immediate food requirements for the region have been estimated at about \$104 million. In 1988, the World Food Programme provided 92,035 tons of food, valued at \$48 million. In 1989, it supplied 39,746 tons, valued at \$29 million.

In the electrical power sector, the resources needed for increasing the voltage between the substations of Pavana (Honduras) and Leon, (Nicaragua) have been approved by Canada. Some \$47 million have been pledged so far to improve services rendered by the Central American electrical companies.

Computerized information system

Because external debt negotiations have advanced bilaterally, UNDP assistance in this area has been limited to technical aid to establish a computerized information system covering the debt issue in each Central American country. The project has been executed jointly by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

To help reactivate the Central American Common Market and

reduce temporary imbalances in the countries' balance of payments, the European Economic Community has allocated ECUs (European Currency Unit) 120 million (about \$163 million) to establish a subregional payment system, with adequate funding and a credit system to facilitate payments. In addition, ECUs 30 million (about \$40.7 million) were allocated to Honduras and Nicaragua. The goal is to reactivate intra-regional trade, which has been on the decline in recent years.

Programme of economic and social reactivation

Work is under way to assess the possibilities of industrial rehabilitation and reconversion of the food, leather and shoe, wood and furniture, cloth and clothing, metal mechanics and chemical industries. UNDP, in consultation with ECLAC and the General Treaty of Central American Economic Integration's secretariat, is discussing these projects with the Central American Governments.

Seminars have been held at the national and regional levels with the participation of business leaders. The Governments have requested a technical mission to analyse current policies and prepare technical assistance requests for industrial rehabilitation and reconversion.

In terms of agricultural development, the RUTA II project, financed by UNDP, Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, is working to strengthen the technical units in each country's Ministry of Agriculture. In the past year, the project has carried out diagnostic studies of basic grains, coffee, soy beans, livestock and others. It also provided assistance in preparing 16 programmes representing investments of some \$490 million.

The social investments envisioned in the Special Plan focus largely on health issues and the promotion of

the project "*Health: A Bridge for Peace*", prepared in co-operation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Pan American Health Organization and the Nutrition Institute for Central America and Panama. This initiative produced pledges of some \$150 million by the international community for the implementation of regional health projects. In addition, UNICEF's Executive Board is currently considering \$70 million in proposals oriented towards primary health care and related services.

In order to promote growth among micro, small and medium enterprises, the Action Committee for the Support of Central America's Economic and Social Development, which is part of the Latin American Economic System, has been requested to devise a programme for small businesses that includes projects in six areas: production and markets; financing; commercial and technological information; training; and technological and institutional strengthening.

Tourism, which plays a vital role in many developing nations' economies, will receive a boost from the efforts of the World Tourism Association (WTO), in close collaboration with the Governments and the Central American Secretariat for Tourism Integration. The group secured support from the Central American Governments and UNDP to finance projects on conservation and development of protected areas, human resources training for tourism and facilitation of the flow of tourists throughout the region. Other tourist-related projects will soon be financed with WTO support.

In an effort to restructure the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, UNDP has begun studies that will allow for the design of a two-and-a-half-year project to help restructure the Bank's commercial debt and improve the investment management system, diversify loans and



UN Photo 155666C Blomquist

The Plan will generate employment opportunities for small farmers and agricultural workers.

increase those available for productive sectors, improve the information management system and contribute to the initiation of a debt reconversion process.

Improving Government management

In the past year, progress was made in starting two projects to strengthen the Ministries responsible for the Special Plan's implementation.

Two other initiatives are expected to facilitate co-operation with Central America and provide information on the Plan's implementation. A computerized information system will allow for periodic updating on projects financed by UNDP or other international organizations, or through bilateral agreements. Regular information on the execution and impact of the Special Plan is also being provided to the media and six issues of the newsletter *INFOPEC* have been produced and distributed.

A unique plan

An interview with Augusto Ramírez-Ocampo,
Co-ordinator of the UN Special Plan of
Economic Co-operation for Central America



UN Photo

Augusto Ramírez-Ocampo is Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme. He is a former Minister of Foreign Relations of Colombia and former Mayor of Bogotá, and was a Board of Directors member of the International Development Bank.

What are the overall goals of the Special Plan?

► The Plan is based on the philosophy of the Esquipulas agreements (Esquipulas is a town in Guatemala where the five Central American presidents signed a comprehensive regional peace plan in August 1988). It is based on the premise that it is impossible to have peace without development and impossible to achieve development without peace—they are two sides of the same coin. Therefore, the overall goal of this Plan is to work towards peace and development simultaneously. Thus, the General Assembly, after lending its support to Esquipulas, stated its desire to support economic development as well.

What are the most essential components of the Plan?

► There are three main aspects of the programme. First, there are emergency problems that must be dealt with before moving on to more long-term items. These emergencies, identified three years ago, include providing aid for drought relief, providing food assistance and helping with the problem of refugees, displaced persons and returnees. The second involves economic reactivation and integration of the regional economies, including the reactivation of the Central American Common Market. Third, helping these countries with debt servicing—we saw how critical the problem was and knew it needed to be solved in order to have real growth.

How has the Plan changed over the past few years?

► The situation has changed dramatically in Central America in the recent past. One major conflict—in Nicaragua—has ended and, although conflict continues in El Salvador, at least the two parties are meeting on a regular basis. Four of the five countries held national elections in the last two years, so we now have new Governments to work with. All five Governments are now in the centre of the political spectrum and have democratic ideals . . . they now share many political and economic philosophies. This consensus will enhance the implementation of the Plan.

How does this Plan differ from other UN development programmes?

► This Plan is unique for two reasons. First, it is the only one that incorporates the quest for peace into the economic development of nations. Secondly, it is the only development plan to focus on a sub-region of the world. Others focus on one specific country or on an entire region or continent.

How would you describe the co-operation of the five countries and what is the economic outlook for Central America in the next few years?

► The five countries have all been outstanding in their willingness to co-operate among themselves, as well as with the UN and the international community. Indeed, this Plan was based on, and derived from, the needs and wishes of the Central American people and Governments. Some things have moved along more quickly than others, although the general pace of progress has been very good. But other things we have found we can't achieve on the regional level. Debt servicing is the biggest example of this. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have said they want to deal with each country on an individual basis, and not as a sub-region as a whole. However, there has been a tremendous commitment from the international community to make this plan work. I would especially like to point out the efforts of Canada, Italy, Spain and the Scandinavian countries for the role they have played in supporting the social and economic development of Central America. The next few years will be crucial to bringing about real development and lasting peace. I am hopeful the plan will be renewed for another three years when it expires next year—I think that will be essential to achieve these difficult goals.

'Unhindered by fear'

South Africa asked to establish climate conducive to negotiations

ANC suspends armed struggle 'in interest of peace'

The General Assembly on 17 September called on South Africa to establish a climate fully conducive to negotiations by taking steps stipulated in the Declaration on *Apartheid* and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa and by implementing its commitment to repeal all South African legislation designed to circumscribe political activity, such as the Internal Security Act.

The Declaration was adopted by the Assembly at its sixteenth special session held from 12 to 14 December 1989.

In resolution 44/244, adopted by consensus, the Assembly called for an immediate end to violence and urged South African authorities to take urgent action towards that end, specifically by dismantling *apartheid* structures and ensuring effective and impartial action by security forces. It also called on all parties concerned to contribute to the establishment of a climate free of violence.

The Assembly welcomed the Joint Declaration adopted on 6 August by South Africa and the African National Congress (ANC) to facilitate commencement of substantive negotiations. The ANC was commended for initiating a call for such talks and for its "landmark decision" to suspend its armed struggle "in the interest of moving as speedily as possible towards a negotiated peaceful political settle-



Cape Town, South Africa, 1989.

ment and in the context of the agreements reached".

The Assembly urged the international community and the Secretary-General to help facilitate the re-establishment of previously banned political organizations in South Africa and the reintegration of released political prisoners. The Secretary-General was requested to provide assistance for voluntary repatriation of South African refugees and political exiles in safety and dignity. The South African Government, the liberation movements, other South African organizations and the international community were asked to fully support that endeavour.

The Assembly called for strict adherence to the Programme of

Action contained in the Declaration by maintaining existing measures aimed at encouraging South Africa to eradicate *apartheid* "until there is clear evidence of profound and irreversible changes", bearing in mind the Declaration's objectives.

In a 17 September statement (A/45/518), South African Foreign Minister R.F. Botha said the resolution violated the UN Charter because it endeavoured to prescribe to South Africans how they should conduct their internal affairs. Nevertheless, he noted with appreciation that the international community, as a whole, had publicly recognized the important changes being implemented in South Africa.

Process started

In addressing the Assembly on 12 September, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar recalled that the mission he had dispatched in June to South Africa to gather information on measures taken to end the *apartheid* system had met with virtually all political organizations and movements. The group was headed by Under-Secretary-General Abdulrahim A. Farah, accompanied by Assistant Secretary-General Sotirios Mousouris, Director of the Centre against *Apartheid*.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar reported (A/44/960) that a process had started towards dismantling *apartheid* through negotiations, although it was still at an early stage.

He said that other essential measures in the Declaration that had to be fulfilled in their entirety included: release of all political prisoners and detainees; end of the state of emergency throughout the country; repeal of all legislation circumscribing political activity; removal of all troops from townships; and cessation of all political trials and executions.

Joint Declaration

The 6 August Joint Declaration by the South African Government and the ANC detailed agreements aimed at strengthening the prospects for early substantive negotiations involving all parties concerned.

The document called for a plan involving the release of ANC-related prisoners and granting indemnity to groups in a phased manner. By it, the Government undertook to consider lifting the state of emergency in Natal as soon as possible.

The Secretary-General hoped that urgent consideration would also be given to emergency regulations affecting the Transvaal province. He cited the Government's repeal of certain provisions of its Internal Security Act.

He said the Joint Declaration reflected "determination and clarity of vision", particularly as it had been concluded at a time of great national turmoil. The Government and ANC had not allowed the rising tide of violence to sway them from their course.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar expressed his profound sense of anguish and deep concern at the continually spiralling cycle of violence in South Africa, which could "tear the fragile fabric of understanding that has begun to be woven". All parties concerned should contribute to the creation of an atmosphere where negotiations could take place "unhindered by fear".

"We are at a turning point when the political process has been enhanced by the commitment of the South African Government . . . to dismantle the *apartheid* system, and by the constructive initiatives taken by ANC", the Secretary-General said. Confidence-building measures at all levels could reduce violence and allow unimpeded progress towards a united, non-racial society.

He also reported that, with very few exceptions, States Members had adhered to the Programme of Action of the Declaration on *apartheid*. The international consensus commanded by that Declaration had provided impetus to the process of change that had begun in South Africa.

ANTI-APARTHEID NOTES

Continuation of sports boycott urged

The Commission against *Apartheid* in Sports, at its second session (New York, 27-29 August), recommended to the General Assembly that it urge States, organizations and individuals to maintain the sports boycott of South Africa.

A similar call was made by the fourth International Conference against *Apartheid* in Sports (Stockholm, 4-6 September). It called upon all concerned to "maintain and tighten the boycott of *apartheid* sports until the genuine representatives of the people of South Africa . . . call formally upon the international community to lift sanctions against South Africa".

Experts' group conducts hearings on South Africa

The Commission on Human Rights' *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts on the Human Rights Situation in Southern Africa conducted hearings in the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe from 20 August to 12 September. It concentrated on developments that had occurred in South Africa since January, paying special attention to the question of detention, torture and other inhuman treatment of children in that country.

The information gathered will be analysed before being reported to the Human Rights Commission at its forty-seventh session in February 1991.

30th anniversary of decolonization Declaration marked

A consensus resolution commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was adopted at the close of the 1990 session (22 January-20 August, New York) of the General Assembly's Special Committee on implementing that historic document.

The 24-member body—which oversaw the decolonization process for a large number of countries that are now Member States of the UN—reaffirmed the inalienable right of all peoples under colonial rule to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

It also reiterated the view that territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the speedy exercise of that right by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The UN was to continue its role in mobilizing public opinion in support of complete decolonization, the Special Committee declared.

In other action, the body asked for an action plan for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (the 1990s), declared by the General Assembly in 1988.

After reviewing the status of the 18 remaining trust and non-self governing territories, the Committee reiterated its view that the people of those territories should “determine freely their future political status” and be made aware of “possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination.”



The UN monitors decolonization process in 18 territories, many of them small islands. Above, workers in Micronesia.

UN Photo 41662

Council for Namibia officially dissolved

The General Assembly, stating that the United Nations Council for Namibia had fulfilled its mandate, officially dissolved the Council, but asked Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar to continue to provide resources to complete the Council's 1990 programme.

The UN Fund for Namibia, in accordance with a further Assembly decision, will continue under the Secretary-General's custody. The Assembly also decided to establish the UN Trust Committee to serve as trustee of the Fund.

The Assembly acted by adopting on 11 September two draft resolutions based on the final report of the Council for Namibia (A/44/24). In doing so, it also asked for voluntary contributions to the Fund, and a credit to the Fund of the \$1.5 million already allocated for 1990 under the regular UN budget.

“The United Nations has already begun to orient its activities and co-operation to the tasks of helping the Namibian people to consolidate their newly-won freedom through social and economic development”, the Secretary-General told the Assembly.

**'Tremendous threat'
of 'global war'**

Crisis in the area of the casts long s



e Persian Gulf

shadow over forty-fifth Assembly





UN Photo 196148/M. Grant

Assembly President de Marco (centre) with the Secretary-General (left) and Under-Secretary-General Spillers (right).

The crisis in the area of the Persian Gulf, triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, was on the mind of each and every delegate as they assembled in the huge blue, green and gold General Assembly Hall on 18 September for the start of the world body's forty-fifth session.

Would the crisis be resolved peacefully or would it end in death and destruction on a massive scale? That was the question that troubled government representatives from all over the globe as they met at UN Headquarters in New York. They knew full well that hundreds of thousands of troops were in the region and had military hardware on a colossal scale to support them. The situation could very easily escalate into a major confrontation.

Guido de Marco, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Justice of Malta, who was elected Assembly President by acclamation soon after the opening session began, told the gathering of world statesmen that "events over the last few weeks have brought about the realization that there are still serious problems which continue to pose threats to the world's political, economic and social development".

Speaking on the same day, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said, in reference to the crisis, that the world faced "the tremendous threat" of a "global war". The "terrible problem" could end up in a "tremendous conflagration, not only a political

conflagration, but an economic disaster for the whole world as well".

The "world crisis" held "potentially fatal dangers", he stated. The situation was "very serious", and it could "easily become more serious still". An escalation of the current situation could "bring doom to countless lives and jeopardize, if not destroy, the future of a vibrant region of the world that is also a cradle of civilization".

In a statement on 10 October at the end of the general debate, Assembly President de Marco said the crisis had inevitably dominated the attention of all 155 participants. Two common themes flowed from the unanimous conviction that the invasion and annexa-

tion of Kuwait constituted both a flagrant violation of the UN Charter, as well as a most serious threat to international peace and security.

On the one hand, he stated, there was the firm demand, voiced by practically every speaker, for the restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity, in full conformity with relevant Security Council resolutions. At the same time, there was the widely expressed view that efforts for a peaceful outcome to the crisis continue on a collective basis, within the framework provided by the Charter.

In speaking about the situation in the area of the Gulf, Mr. de Marco pointed out, participants in the debate also looked at the wider regional framework in which the crisis was unfolding. Here, again, two common themes emerged. There was an absolute rejection of any direct linkage between the invasion of Kuwait and other outstanding issues in the Middle East. At the same time, it was clearly acknowledged that the firm international reaction to the invasion of Kuwait was setting a new high moral standard of action.

He observed that there was recognition that the new standard of action must be seen to be applicable also to efforts towards the solution of the other problems of the region, especially in bringing about a just and permanent solution to the question of Palestine through the early convening of the long-awaited peace conference.

On 19 September, at Kuwait's request, the Assembly added to its agenda an item on Iraqi aggression and continued occupation of Kuwait.

Some of the other new agenda items pertain to the elaboration of norms for conciliation rules of the UN, an additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and observer status for the International Committee of the Red Cross.



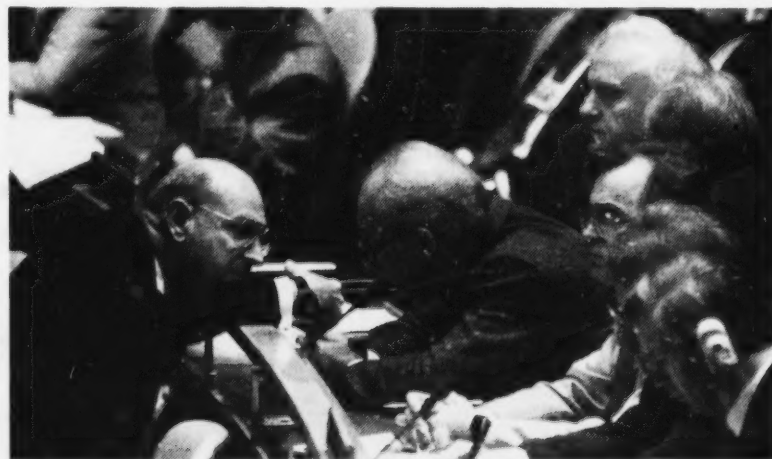
UN Photo

The delegation of Iraq.



UN Photo 176397M. Grant

The delegation of Kuwait.



UN Photo 176238J. Isaac

Soviet and United States representatives consult.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, in his annual report (A/45/1) which traditionally provides a keynote for the Assembly opening, observed that the UN had entered the post-cold war era as "a central point of constancy in the midst of flux".

The very change that had rendered obsolete the whole architecture of the cold war served to reveal afresh the design for peace which the UN was meant to execute, he said.

Apart from the situation in the area of the Persian Gulf—and the Middle East in general—other principal issues to be considered by the Assembly would be debt and development, the environment, drugs, poverty, and refugees who currently number 12 million throughout the world. In addition, the Assembly was expected to take up specific situations still unresolved around the world, such as Cambodia, Western Sahara, Afghanistan, Central America and Cyprus. *Apartheid* would also be closely scrutinized.

The Assembly's agenda lists 155 items—three less than the record 158 considered by the 1989 Assembly. Some 50 of those items were to be considered directly in plenary.

The question of international economic co-operation, in particular the matter of the revitalization of economic growth in developing countries and problems faced by the least developed countries, would continue to be discussed by the Assembly, notwithstanding the fact that a number of countries feel that the specialized agencies and the international financial institutions should deal with those problems.

Trend towards consensus

In 1989, 65 per cent of the 335 resolutions adopted were by consensus. The previous year, 58 per cent were adopted by consensus. It was expected that the trend towards adoption of resolutions by consensus would continue in 1990.

On 17 September, the Assembly formally ended its forty-fourth session, which began on 19 September 1989.

In his closing remarks, then Assembly President Joseph N. Garba of Nigeria said the forty-fourth session had witnessed the "gradual assumption by the United Nations of a new confidence and status as it crossed the threshold to regain its long-vacant post of facilitator of world peace and security".

He stressed that the UN could "never be anything but a mirror of the world as it is". The Organization was "merely an assemblage of the multiplicity of individual national States with all their imperfections". It was "as good or as bad as the States which compose it".

In a statement issued following a meeting on 28 September with Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar, the Foreign Ministers of the five permanent members of the Security Council—China, France, United Kingdom, United States and USSR—welcomed the "considerable successes achieved by the UN over the past year". Agreeing that the Organization faced important new opportunities and challenges, they

stressed the crucial contribution which it could make "in this new era of intensified co-operation and interaction among States".

On 18 September, the General Assembly elected its 21 Vice-Presidents and the Chairmen of its seven Main Committees.

Day of Peace

The ninth International Day of Peace was observed on 18 September.

In a brief ceremony on 1 October, Assembly President de Marco accepted from Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and a Plan of Action for implementing the Declaration. The Declaration was signed by 71 Heads of State or Government. Both documents had been adopted at the World Summit for Children, held at Headquarters on 29 to 30 September. Mr. Mulroney was Co-Chairman of the Summit. The other Co-Chairman was President Moussa Traoré of Mali (*see story on page 64*).

On 10 October, the Assembly approved a plan for electoral assistance



Mrs. Pérez de Cuéllar (left) with Mrs. de Marco, wife of new Assembly President (right) and the First Lady of Brazil, Roseane Collor (centre), at the opening of the general debate.

to Haiti that will include providing an observer mission before and during the balloting scheduled for 16 December 1990. The international community was also urged to increase technical, economic and financial co-operation with Haiti.

Some time during the session, the Assembly was expected to mark the tenth anniversary of the University for Peace, based in Costa Rica, and the fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical

co-operation for development in the UN system.

Among the 155 participants in the general debate, which had begun on 24 September, were 27 Heads of State, one Vice-President, 15 Prime Ministers, eight Deputy Prime Ministers who are also Foreign Ministers, 86 Foreign Ministers, three other Ministers and 15 chairmen of delegations.

The total number of 155 speakers was a record. Also, never before

had 27 Heads of State addressed the same General Assembly session.

Liechtenstein was admitted as the UN's newest member State on 18 September, raising the Organization's membership to 160. However, when the two Germanys merged on 3 October, the membership dropped back to 159.

The forty-fifth session is scheduled to recess on 18 December 1990 and officially conclude on 16 September 1991.

Assembly recognizes German unification

On 3 October, the General Assembly recognized the unification of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic. The newly-unified nations would be known as Germany.

In a declaration issued on the eve of unification, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said 3 October 1990 was a day of truly historic significance.

After 45 years of division, the two German States had overcome what had kept them apart, and decided, in conditions of freedom and democracy, to renew national unity.

He extended good wishes to Germans for a peaceful and prosperous future, in which they were bound to play a role of great importance in the continued pursuit of peace and well-being in Europe and in the world. "Strengthened by its unity, Germany will be able to serve the purposes and principles of the United Nations with even greater distinction and involvement", he concluded.

Assembly President Guido de Marco told delegates on 3 October that German unification, more than any other event, symbolized the end of the cold war. With the seating of one German delegation, the UN had

become once more an Organization of 159 members, "in circumstances which must give us all joy at the healing of those divisions in Europe which inhibited the effectiveness of our Organization for decades". He welcomed a united Germany as a sovereign and equal nation.

Ambassador Hans Otto Brautigam told the Assembly that Germany would render its contribution to peace and freedom in Europe and in the world. When the Federal Republic of Germany was admitted to the UN 17 years ago, its political objective had been "to

work for a state of peace in Europe in which the German nation will recover its unity in free self-determination". That goal had now been achieved.

He stated that German unity was the result of a peaceful democratic process, in which the entire German nation had exercised its right of free self-determination. Germany "has no territorial claims whatsoever against other countries, nor will it have any in the future". It would confirm the existing frontier with Poland in a treaty binding under international law.

UN Photo 176699/M. Grant



The delegation of a unified Germany seated at the UN on 3 October.

Assembly forecast

From Iraqi aggression to Antarctica, from outer space to crime . . .

It would not be surprising if one takes a cursory look at the 155-item agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly and concludes that there was hardly anything new this year. The fact is that the world's main forum has dealt with nearly all of those items before. Of the new items, the one of greatest interest is likely to be that on Iraqi aggression and continued occupation of Kuwait.

But a closer look reveals that, as the UN moves towards the centre of the global political stage, the Assembly may also be starting to change. At the current session, there has been a modest shrinking in the number of items—three less than at the forty-fourth session. A far more significant phenomenon is the increasing trend to discuss matters and act on them in a co-operative, non-confrontational way.

Much of the substantive work of the Assembly is done at its seven Committees. Tucked away in smaller conference rooms, physically near the General Assembly Hall, but far from its limelight, Committee members dive into the issues with depth and attention to detail.

In the Committees, while understandings are reached, many by consensus, still failures may occur. The draft resolutions and decisions approved by the Committees are sent to plenary for final adoption.



UNEP Photo 252 C

Nuclear issues

The First Committee will grapple with nearly 30 items, including many sub-items on disarmament. There will be an item on Antarctica, while three items will deal with security matters.

The Committee's focus will continue to be on nuclear issues. Increasing attention is expected to be given to matters related to conventional disarmament. A ban on chemical weapons—the subject of intense negotiations in the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament—will also be high on the agenda. The new bilateral relationship between the United States and the USSR is expected to foster progress in many areas.

Peace-keeping

The most interesting item before the Special Political Committee is one on peace-keeping operations. At its 1989 session, the Assembly, among other things, asked the Secretary-General to invite States to identify what they would be ready to contribute to peace-keeping operations. It also called for establishment of national training programmes for military and civilian personnel for such operations.

The Committee will also tackle some long-standing items, including outer space, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, Israeli practices affecting the human rights of Palestinians and

other Arabs in the occupied territories, and information. An item on science and peace was added to the Committee's agenda two years ago.

New economic items

A wide range of issues relating to development and international economic co-operation will be taken up by the Second Committee. Four of the 11 items are new—the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development; international co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries; international assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola; and implementation of the 1990 Declaration on International Economic Co-operation.

The item on the protection of global climate is two years old. At its 1989 session, the Assembly supported the request of the UN Environment Programme to begin preparations for negotiations on a framework for a global convention on climate. At the current session, the Assembly will have the Secretary-General's report on the subject. A World Climate Conference is to be held in November 1990 in Geneva.

The Assembly will also consider reports of the Secretary-General on external debt crisis and development and on "large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas".

Other matters before the Committee will be food, energy, population problems and special economic and disaster relief assistance programmes.

Varied social agenda

The Third Committee, with the most voluminous and varied agenda of any Main Committee, deals with items relating to social, humanitarian and human rights questions. The Committee will review various

issues relating to racial discrimination, children's rights, women and assistance to refugees. Reports on the human rights situations in certain specific countries will be considered.

Issues of crime prevention will also be taken up by the Committee, which will have before it the results of the Eighth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders held at Havana, Cuba, from 27 August to 7 September.

The Committee also deals with drug issues. This year, it will have before it the results of the Assembly's special session on drugs (20-23 February, New York) and the 100-paragraph Global Programme of Action adopted at the session. The world body will also deliberate on the request made by the Economic and Social Council for a revision in the UN system-wide plan on drugs.

The Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families, in operation for 11 years, is expected to present to the Committee a draft of the Convention, which might then be adopted by the Assembly at its 1990 session.

Decolonization

The Fourth Committee, which deals with decolonization matters, will continue to hold hearings on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

In a ceremony on 10 October, the Assembly observed the thirtieth anniversary of its Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted on 30 March 1960.

Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar told the Assembly that since the Declaration had been adopted, 59 Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, embracing a total population of 140 million people in all regions of the world, had been enabled to exercise their right to self-determination.

The UN continued to uphold its commitment to the political, economic and social advancement of the remaining 18 Non-Self-Governing Territories, most of them in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, he stated.

Money matters

The Fifth Committee will continue to consider its traditional agenda of administrative, budgetary and personnel matters, including reports from the Joint Inspection Unit, the Committee on Conferences and the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund.

UN officials described the Organization's financial situation as "desperate", with only 57 Member States having paid in full in 1990. More than \$1 billion was owed for both the regular budget and peace-keeping operations.

International Law

The Sixth Committee will consider at least two new items, one dealing with elaboration of an additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and another on elaboration of norms for UN conciliation rules.

The Committee will have before it reports of the International Law Commission (ILC), the UN Commission on International Trade Law, the Special Committee on the Charter and on strengthening the UN's role, and the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. The ILC has proposed an international penal code, which was debated at the Eighth Crime Congress and by the Economic and Social Council.

Other subjects to be taken up by the Committee will be diplomatic safety, status of the diplomatic courier and status of the Geneva conventions on war victims.

Conference on Disarmament focuses on chemical weapons ban, nuclear tests



UN Photo 9007-1201

At the Conference on 12 July.

A large part of the work of the Conference on Disarmament at its 1990 session was devoted to the ongoing elaboration of a multilateral convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and their destruction. Work also resumed, after a seven-year hiatus, on a nuclear-test ban.

The Conference—the world's single forum for multilateral disarmament negotiations—concluded its 1990 session on 24 August in Geneva. The first part of the 1990 session was held from 6 February to 24 April and the second part from 12 June to 24 August.

The Conference consists of the five nuclear-weapon States (China, France, USSR, United Kingdom and United States), members of other militarily significant States, as well as neutral and non-aligned countries which form the Group of 21. Non-members have been

invited, upon their request, to participate in its work.

Within the framework of its permanent agenda of 10 items, the Conference considered the following major disarmament issues: nuclear-test ban; cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters; chemical weapons; prevention of an arms race in outer space; effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons; and comprehensive programme of disarmament.

The Conference agreed on a number of recommendations aimed at its improved and effective functioning. It also reaffirmed its decision that membership might be increased by not more than four States.

Test-ban body created

On 17 July, the Conference re-established an *Ad Hoc* Committee on a Nuclear-Test Ban following a seven-year hiatus. It had been asked to initiate, as a first step towards achieving a nuclear-test-ban treaty, substantive work on specific and interrelated test-ban issues, including structure and scope as well as verification and compliance. France confirmed its previously announced decision to refrain from participating in the work of that Committee.

The Committee was also asked to examine institutional and administrative arrangements necessary for establishing, testing and operating an international seismic monitoring network as part of an effective verification system of a nuclear-test-ban treaty.

Mitsuro Donowaki of Japan was appointed Chairman of the Committee, which held six meetings from 20 July to 17 August. The Chairman also conducted informal consultations with delegations.

In its conclusions and recommendations to the Conference, the Committee said it had carried out a preliminary examination of specific and interrelated test-ban issues. Those initial discussions were useful in preparing the ground for further consideration of the issue. It was agreed that substantive work on a nuclear-test ban should continue in 1991.

The *Ad Hoc* Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events continued work on measures that might be adopted in the future for the international exchange of seismological data under a treaty prohibiting nuclear-weapon tests, covering nuclear explosions for peaceful

purposes in a protocol which would be an integral part of the treaty. It met from 30 July to 9 August under the chairmanship of Ola Dahlman of Sweden.

Chemical weapons

The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Chemical Weapons continued negotiations on a multilateral convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction, taking into account all existing proposals and drafts, as well as future initiatives, with a view to giving the Conference a possibility to achieve an agreement as soon as possible.

Other issues

The *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space advanced the examination and identification of issues relevant to prevention of an arms race in outer space. Existing proposals were reviewed and preliminary consideration given to new proposals and initiatives—the major aim: to ensure that exploration and use of outer space would be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes in the common interest and for the benefit of all mankind.

The Committee recognized that the legal régime applicable to outer space by itself did not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space. That régime had to be reinforced and existing agreements strictly complied with. Bilateral negotiations between the USSR and the United States on the subject were considered important; it was stressed that bilateral and multilateral efforts were complementary.

An *Ad Hoc* Committee to continue negotiations on effective inter-

national arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons reaffirmed that non-nuclear-weapon States should be effectively assured by the nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons pending effective measures of nuclear disarmament.

Specific difficulties relating to differing perceptions of security interests of nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States persisted, it was found. The complex nature of the issues involved continued to prevent agreement on a "common formula". The Committee wanted existing difficulties overcome.

The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Radiological Weapons, working on a draft convention banning the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons, said its work contributed to the clarification of different approaches that continued to exist with regard to subjects under consideration.

The question of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons was also considered. A proposal to keep the item under review was accepted.

The Conference also continued to consider the question of a comprehensive programme of disarmament. It decided that the organizational framework to deal with this subject would be considered at the beginning of its 1991 session.



UN Photo

Fourth Review Conference

Parties to Non-Proliferation Treaty unable to agree on a final declaration

The Fourth Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which met in Geneva from 20 August to 15 September, was unable to reach a consensus on a final declaration.

The difficulties centred around a call for a commitment on the part of the nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty for an early comprehensive ban on nuclear testing and on a proposed mention of step by step bilateral nuclear test-ban negotiations under way between the USSR and the United States.

Outside this disagreement, the Conference was widely regarded as useful and positive. During the four-week session, the Conference, working through three Main Committees, achieved consensus on a wide range of recommendations concerning implementation of Treaty provisions on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, safeguarding of nuclear materials, establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Consensus proved elusive, however, concerning the promotion of nuclear disarmament.

The USSR and the United States both affirmed that the Conference had been useful and had resulted in a reaffirmation of States parties' commitment to non-proliferation; both also stressed the need to enhance and extend the Treaty in the future.

Mexico stressed that the linkage of the Treaty's other goals with the question of progress in achieving a comprehensive test ban and general and complete disarmament would continue into 1995, when States parties must meet again to decide



President de Rivero Barreto (centre) addresses Conference.

whether the Treaty should be extended indefinitely or for a further period. At the Review Conference, Mexico led those States parties demanding that the final declaration include a statement to the effect that the continued testing of nuclear weapons would put the future of the Treaty in grave doubt.

Three of the five nuclear-weapon States (USSR, United Kingdom, United States) are parties to the Treaty, while China and France have not acceded to it. Eighty-four States parties (some 60 per cent of the membership) participated in the Conference.

Conference President Oswaldo de Rivero Barreto of Peru, at the outset of the Conference, said it was being held in a "propitious atmosphere" and in the context of a new concept of international security not based on ideological and military factors, but rather on the removal of ideologies from international relations and other factors.

Messages were also read from President Mikhail Gorbachev of the USSR and President George Bush of the United States. Both expressed strong support for the NPT.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, in a statement made jointly with the German Democratic Republic, reaffirmed adherence to the NPT régime, as well as to commitments not to produce, acquire or control nuclear, biological or chemical weapons.

IAEA Director-General Hans Blix said that it would be desirable for fissionable material recovered through nuclear disarmament to be used as far as possible as safeguarded fuel for electricity generation. "The world would undoubtedly feel more comfortable if this material were burnt up than if it were stored without time-limit and were theoretically available for the production of new weapons."

Preparatory Commission adopts 'Understanding' on obligations of pioneer investors

The Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, at its resumed eighth regular session (New York, 13-31 August), reached another milestone by adopting an Understanding on the Fulfilment of Obligations by the Registered Pioneer Investors and Their Certifying States.

The session was marked by discussions on every aspect of the Understanding that deals with the obligations undertaken by France, India, Japan and the USSR. Those four registered pioneer investors have been granted exclusive rights to explore designated areas of the international sea-bed allocated to them under the terms of resolution II of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea (1973-1982).

The Understanding removed the final obstacle to implementing obligations of pioneer investors that include payment of a \$1 million annual fee to the Authority, provision of training to personnel designated by the Preparatory Commission, transfer of technology to the Enterprise—the sea-bed mining arm of the Authority—and exploration of a mine site for an Enterprise operation.

China on 22 August applied for pioneer investor status, stating it had spent some \$60 million on survey, research and development of deep sea-bed polymetallic module resources. The application was submitted on behalf of the China Ocean Mineral Research and Development Association, a state-owned enterprise that aims to develop an area of 300,000 square kilometres in the Clarion-Clipperton



UNEXION Photo 155196

The UN is concerned with an equitable approach to mining the riches of the sea-bed.

Zone of the Pacific Ocean, an area previously found to be rich in manganese-nodule deposits. The application would be reviewed by a group of technical experts in New York in December.

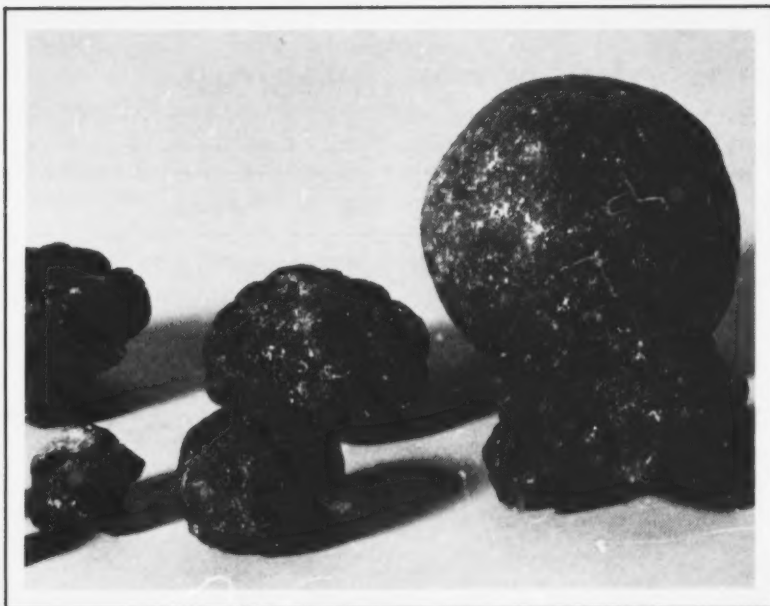
Commission Chairman José Luis Jesus of Cape Verde said that action on both pioneer investors' obligations and China's application demonstrated that the Commission could circumvent difficulties so that the Convention could be implemented by all States. No effort should be spared in solving other difficulties, he added.

A second reading of the draft Protocol on the Authority's Privileges and Immunities was concluded at the session. The outcome of consultations on pending articles of the draft agreement between the Authority and Jamaica regarding the Authority's headquarters had been endorsed.

First readings of a draft agreement on the UN's relationship with the Authority and of a working paper on the Authority's administrative arrangements, structure and financial implications would be on the next agenda. Consultations would continue on articles of a draft Protocol on the Authority's privileges and immunities, as well as the draft headquarters agreement.

Special Commissions

Land-based producer States: The main topic of discussion in Special Commission 1 dealt with problems of land-based producer States resulting from commercial sea-bed mining. It is formulating measures to offset possible adverse effects of sea mining on the economies of countries with land-



UN Photo 131331/S. Lwin

Manganese nodules recovered from the ocean floor.

based mining industries. The question of economic relief to developing producer States was also considered.

Special Commission Chairman Hasjim Djalal of Indonesia spelled out broad potential recommendations to the Assembly, which could ultimately result in studies on how best to minimize difficulties faced by developing land-based producer States, including economic adjustment measures and a compensation fund.

Enterprise: The status and structure of the Enterprise during the period leading up to commercial sea-bed mining continued to be the focus of intensive discussions in Special Commission 2, which is concerned with preparations for the Enterprise.

Baidy Diene of Senegal, Chairman of the *Ad Hoc* Group on Transitional Measures, reported that agreement had been reached on an evolutionary arrangement for the Enterprise, so it could function at first at minimum cost, while preparing for expansion.

The transitional arrangements call for reporting on all developments affecting sea-bed mining, elaboration of options available to the Enterprise including possible joint ventures, studies on areas of the sea-bed reserved for the Enterprise and a managerial policy for the Enterprise. Also considered were decision-making, confidentiality, the relationship of the Enterprise to the Authority and the financing of the first mine site.

Mining code: Special Commission 3, which is charged with preparing rules and regulations for future sea-bed mining, dealt with complex issues related to the monitoring, inspection and protection of the ocean environment through certain emergency procedures.

It was not agreed yet on whether State sponsors would be given the option or the obligation of inspecting mining operations under their jurisdictions. Several delegations supported limiting the emergency powers of the Authority's Secretary-General.

An article-by-article reading of the draft rules and regulations to protect the marine environment focused on the role of inspectors in ensuring contractors' compliance with their environmental obligations, the rights of coastal States, which might be affected by sea-bed mining operations, and the question of emergency orders in the event of incidents threatening ocean ecosystems.

Sea Law Tribunal: Special Commission 4, which makes arrangements for the Sea Law Tribunal, concluded its consideration of a draft agreement on the relationship between the Tribunal and the Authority that covers a wide range of issues relating to a relationship agreement created by the Convention. Among topics under discussion were the exchange of information and documents, administrative co-operation and budgetary and financial arrangements. Also under consideration were staffing requirements, arrangements between the Tribunal and the International Court of Justice and building requirements and facilities.

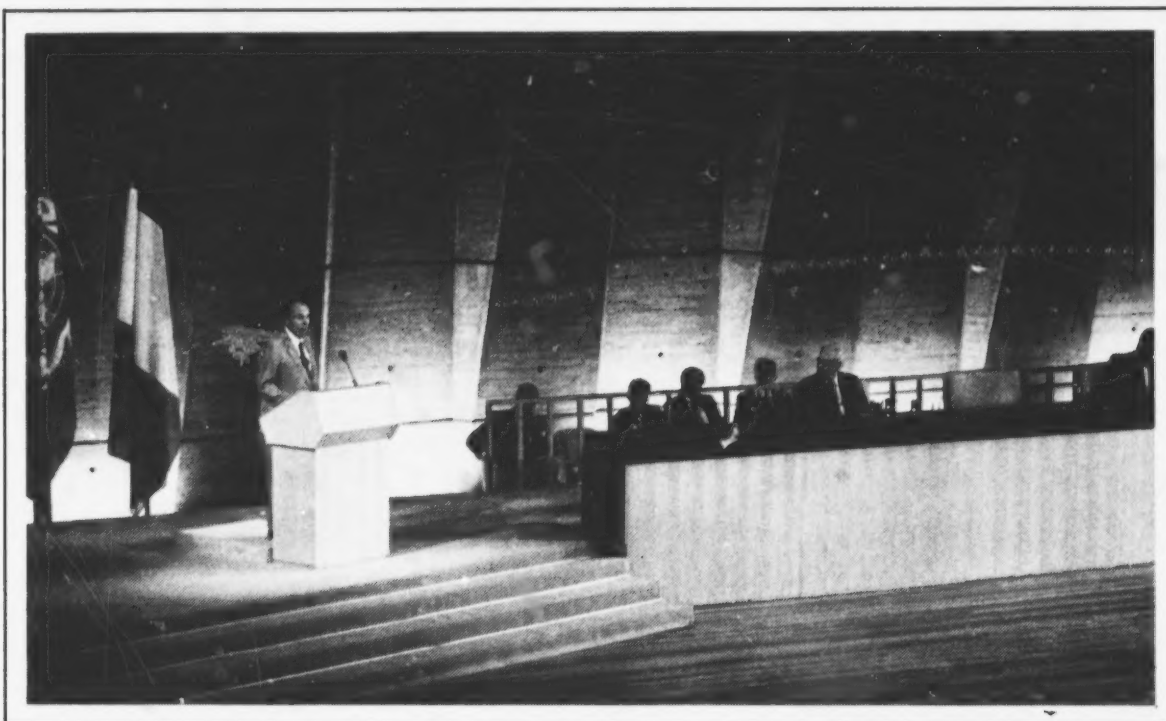
Environmental concerns

A seminar focusing on every environmental aspect of sea-bed mining was held during the session. Experts from France, Japan, the USSR and the United States made presentations on the environmental impact of deep-sea mining, drawing attention to the need to proceed with caution towards full-scale commercial mining of the mineral-rich sea-bed.

The expert consensus was that it would be virtually impossible to set specific standards to protect the ocean environment from possible damage caused by sea-bed mining, because data currently available was insufficient to allow for sensible controls.

Increased aid asked

Second LDC Conference adopts new Action Programme in Paris



UN Photo

Nearly 25 per cent of UN Member States are designated as "least developed countries".
Above, a view of the Paris Conference on LDCs.

A new Programme of Action aimed at advancing the world's poorest countries offers a "menu approach" for donors to increase their official aid to the least developed countries (LDCs), stressing bilateral assistance in the form of grants or highly concessional loans and calling on donors to help reduce LDC debt. The Programme was adopted by consensus at the conclusion of the Second United Nations Conference on the LDCs (Paris, 3-14 September).

The UN recognizes more than 40 developing countries as "least developed". Although individual nation's indicators vary, in general LDCs have a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of approximately \$200 a year, a low life expectancy, literacy rates under 20 per cent and a low contribution of manufacturing industries to GDP.

Reflecting the emergence during the 1980s of new priorities in development strategy, the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 1990s differs from the Action Programme

adopted at the first UN Conference on LDCs held in 1981 in Paris. The new Programme emphasizes respect for human rights, the need for democratization and privatization, the potential role of women in development and the new regard for population policy as a fundamental factor in promoting development. Greater recognition of the role of non-governmental organizations in LDC development is also emphasized.

In a separate Final Declaration, adopted along with the Programme,



UNHCR Photo 14008/P. Jambor

Concern for society's most vulnerable groups...

Conference participants pledge to implement the plan throughout the 1990s and say the "deterioration in the economic, social and ecological situation of most of the LDCs during the 1980s is not irreversible". The Programme's success would lie, the Declaration states, on mutual commitments by the LDC Governments and their aid partners.

Programme priorities

The Programme's priorities are:

- Design of a macro-economic policy aimed at accelerating long-term growth and development, with concern for society's most vulnerable groups—children, the

aged, disabled persons, women and refugees;

- Development of human resources through the full participation of all groups in the development process and through giving the population access to social services;
- Reversal of environmental degradation;
- Promotion of integrated rural development policies to increase food production, enhance rural income and expand the non-agricultural sector; and
- Development of a diversified productive sector.

The Programme emphasizes the shared responsibility and strengthened partnership between aid recipients and their development partners, with LDCs having

primary responsibility for forming and implementing policies for their own growth and development.

Kenneth K. S. Dadzie, Secretary-General of both the Conference and UNCTAD, said the Declaration and Action Programme constituted a commitment to reverse the marginalization of the people in the LDCs.

Aid, trade and debt: key factors

In an inaugural address to the Conference on 3 September, President François Mitterrand of France called for a new "contract of solidarity" between donor States and LDCs and announced that his country would raise its contribution to LDCs from 0.15 per cent to 0.2 per cent of its gross national product (GNP). He proposed that donor countries devote 0.15 per cent of their GNP for a limited period—perhaps five years—to assist LDCs, and that countries which had already met that objective increase their aid. Debt cancellation was also important, he said, as well as the security of commodity prices for LDCs.

The choices for donor countries that were finally adopted in the Programme are as follows:

- Those providing more than 0.2 per cent of their GNP as official development assistance (ODA) to LDCs should continue to do so and increase their efforts;
- Other donors that have met the 0.15 per cent target should strive to reach 0.2 per cent by the year 2000;
- All other donors that have committed themselves to the 0.15 per cent target should reaffirm their commitment and undertake either that target within the next five years or make their best efforts to accelerate their endeavours to reach it; and
- Other donors should increase their ODA to LDCs as part of a collective effort.

Agreement on those options was reached after lengthy ministerial-level consultations led by Jan Pronk, Minister for Development Co-operation of the Netherlands.

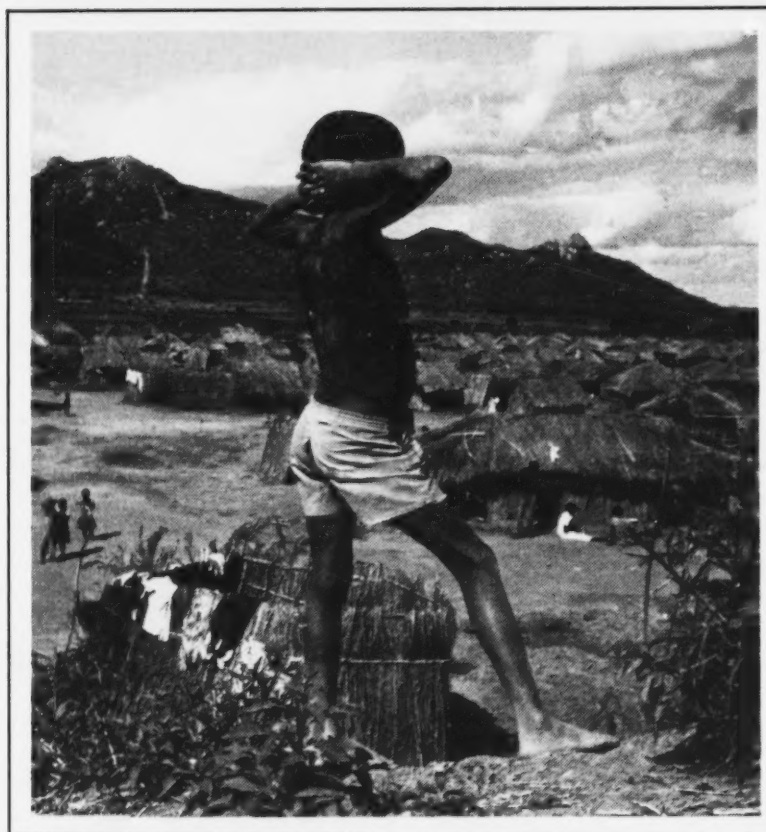
The UN Development Programme announced at the Conference on 4 September that it would provide \$2 billion or 55 per cent of its programme resources in grants to LDCs from 1992 to 1997.

Outstanding external debt greatly inhibits the ability of more than one half of LDCs that were considered "debt-distressed" to implement their development plans. As a group, LDCs' total debt in 1989 was \$70 billion and the annual debt service was about \$4 billion, the latter representing approximately one quarter of their annual exports of goods and services.

The Programme urges all donors to implement measures to cancel or provide equivalent relief for ODA debt. Government lenders are invited to consider the application of more liberal terms to all LDCs seeking to reschedule their official debts, as well as further measures to reduce the official debt burden of LDCs.

Some \$7 billion in LDC debt is in the form of non-concessional bilateral credits from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, accounting for one fifth of the LDC debt-service payments. Relief to alleviate the burden of debts to multilateral institutions and development funds is also asked, as well as the increased use of debt-reduction schemes in co-operation with commercial banks.

Diversification of exports, greater access to the market and stable commodity prices are also needed, the Plan states, to be accomplished through a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Technical co-operation between LDCs and other developing countries is encouraged.



UNHCR Photo 19018-05/A. Hollmann

The need for a "human-centred" development...

Essential roles

Recognizing the essential role of men and women in the development process, the Programme states: "Development should be human-centred and broadly based." The Programme further stresses that "respect for human rights . . . constitutes a universal obligation and stimulates the creativity, innovation and initiative necessary for socio-economic development".

Women are recognized as "agents and beneficiaries" of the development process, whose role must be strengthened. To strengthen "human capital", the Programme refers to three targets: achieving optimal balance in population; improving education

and training standards; and raising health and sanitation conditions to internationally recognized objectives.

Some 80 per cent of the LDC population live in rural areas and earn their livelihood through agricultural production. The Programme calls for enhanced rural development, modernization of agricultural production and food security in LDCs. Development of industrial, service, scientific and technological bases is also sought under the Plan.

Trouble-shooting of LDC environmental problems—such as soil degradation and erosion, drought and desertification—is emphasized in the Programme.

Oil shocks cause alarm

A world economic recession, predicted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in its annual *Trade and Development Report, 1990*, could have a severe impact on LDCs, as new oil-price "shocks" threaten their already weak economies.

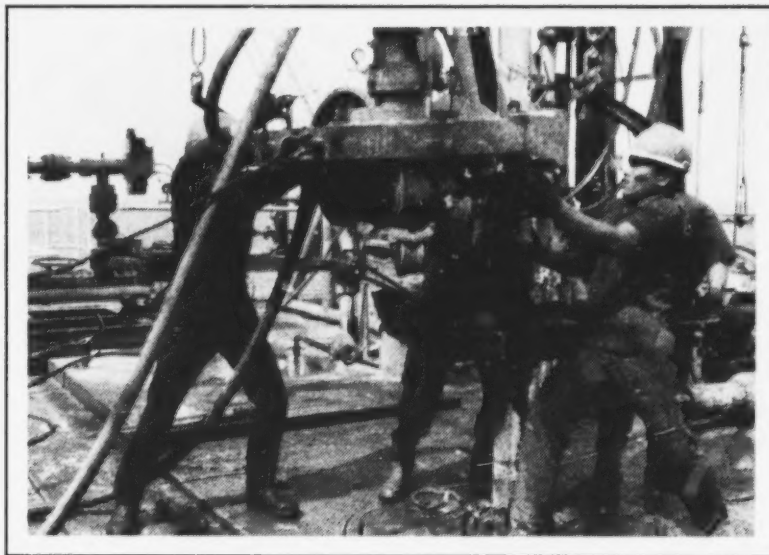
Only a few Asian economies and some members of the European Economic Community could avoid a recession, said Roger Lawrence, an UNCTAD Director and head of the Report team, at a press conference on 13 September at Headquarters.

The UNCTAD survey, published on 1 August, the day before Iraqi troops moved into Kuwait, stated that Latin America and Eastern Europe were expected to have particularly poor growth performances in 1990, and the world's rich countries would also be affected in the wake of oil price rises in August.

If oil prices remained high, UNCTAD warned, growth in the major countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development could fall by one quarter to one half a percentage point. Oil imports could absorb up to one half of Eastern Europe's total hard currency earnings, he said.

In developing countries, a \$30-per-barrel price would add \$26 billion per year to their import bill. For developing countries with external payment problems, the only option would be to cut back on imports, including oil, Lawrence explained, which would have a very negative effect on their economic activity.

Instability and uncertainty in financial and currency markets, unparalleled since the Second World War, call for greater management of international finance, UNCTAD



UN Photo 155186/R. Cranbourne

Oil rig at Sabaa, Saudi Arabia.

reported. The sharp swings in interest rates, equity prices, exchange rates and capital flows must be reversed. The Report calls for an energetic response by Governments and proposes a new exchange-rate mechanism based on the dollar, the European Currency Unit (ECU) and the yen, and measures restricting speculative capital movements.

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Michel Camdessus on 11 September in Paris told the UN Conference on LDCs that rising oil prices would increase LDC vulnerability to the effects of slow growth in industrial countries and further increases in international interest rates. In this time of "danger but also of opportunities", he said, LDCs were once again faced with a serious deterioration in the external environment which would challenge their growth in the 1990s.

The least developed countries (LDCs) are:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia*, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen.

*On the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly is expected to approve at its forty-fifth session Liberia as an LDC.

Eighth Crime Congress looks to 21st century

International criminal court, new convention proposed



President Fidel Castro Ruz of Cuba (centre) with Margaret J. Anstee (right), Secretary-General of the Congress, greeting other dignitaries in Cuba.

The Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders examined international co-operation in crime prevention and criminal justice for the twenty-first century during a two-week session held in Havana, Cuba, from 27 August to 7 September.

Adoption of draft model treaties on extradition, mutual assistance in criminal matters, transfer of proceedings, supervision of offenders and prevention of crimes against cultural property were among the many actions taken by the Congress, which met under the shadow of expected further rapid crime

growth during the 1990s and beyond.

Eighty-one speakers addressed the Congress during a five-day general debate on crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development—one of five major agenda items—held in plenary session.

The four other substantive items—imprisonment, juvenile delinquency, organized crime and terrorism, and UN norms and guidelines—were discussed in two main committees.

Some 1,400 participants from 127 countries, five intergovernmental and 40 non-governmental organiza-

tions attended the Congress. Since 1955, crime congresses have been held by the UN every five years.

Margaret J. Anstee, Secretary-General of the Congress and Director-General of the UN Office at Vienna (UNOV)—the seat of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch—at the final meeting said that the Congress had adopted more resolutions, recommendations, principles and model treaties—some 40 actions—than all prior Congresses put together.

Extensive preparations for the Congress, including a series of interregional and regional meetings,

were carried out by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of UNOV whose Chief, Eduardo Vetere, served as Executive Secretary of the Congress.

Juan Escalona Reguera, President of Cuba's National Assembly, was elected President of the Eighth Congress.

UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, in a message to the Congress on 27 August, said that crime had been transformed into a "global menace" by technological advances and the internationalization of many activities.

Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba, in an opening address, said crime and development were linked and that success in the fight against crime required international co-operation and commitment to the fight against poverty and marginalization.

Viable anti-crime action

In an effort to enhance the effectiveness of UN action in the crime field, the Congress asked the General Assembly to convene a ministerial meeting to decide on a viable future crime prevention and criminal justice programme and to consider the need for a convention to develop that programme. The Assembly was urged to establish an intergovernmental working group to elaborate proposals for the programme and suggest ways to implement it.

The Congress called on Member States to promote criminal sanctions against the dumping of hazardous wastes and consider enacting criminal legislation to protect persons threatened by the deterioration of the environment.

Member States were asked to develop policies to counter urban crime and develop economic

policies to reduce crime by combating corruption, drug trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

Twenty-four guidelines for national action and international co-operation on the prevention and control of organized crime were set out by the Congress.

States were urged to intensify measures against organized crime linked with illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Ten principles to combat drug addiction at the national level were detailed by the Congress.

The Committee was also asked to consider a universal and/or regional register of judicial sentences imposed for trafficking in drugs, arms and persons; terrorist activities; and for offences against ecosystems and cultural property.

States were asked to consider national and international action against terrorism. A study on developing a new international convention to protect vulnerable targets, such as hydroelectric or nuclear facilities was also asked.

Protecting the human rights of victims of crime and abuse of power was urged by the Congress, as was an international fund to compensate and assist victims of international crimes.

The Congress also adopted resolutions on pre-trial detention, contracting the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in prison, sentencing policies and assessing the release of life-sentence prisoners.

The increase of non-custodial sanctions, as well as care for sick and drug-dependent prisoners, were urged.

The General Assembly would call upon Member States to apply the UN Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures—known as the "Tokyo Rules"—designed to help States develop alternative sentences.

Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by law enforcement officials and on the roles of lawyers and prosecutors were also adopted.

Member States were encouraged to conclude agreements for transferring enforcement of penal sanctions and formulate a model agreement for submission to the Ninth Crime Congress to be held in 1995.

Regular contact with the International Committee of the Red Cross with regard to detention was urged.

The General Assembly was asked to affirm a statement on basic principles for the treatment of prisoners, proclaim an international year for the protection of victim and rehabilitation of offenders, and measures to promote the computerization of criminal justice administration.

A three-year moratorium on use of the death penalty was rejected, when a draft proposing it did not obtain the necessary two-thirds vote.

The Congress encouraged discussion of domestic violence in connection with the International Year of the Family to be observed in 1994. It was to be a priority item at the Ninth Congress. Programmes dealing with the instrumental use of children in criminal activities were also requested.

The Congress wanted Member States to apply the "Riyadh Guidelines" for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, which emphasize early preventive and protective intervention for young persons, with special attention given to children at social risk. Nations would be urged to adapt their national legislation, policies and practices to UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty.

(The June 1990 edition of the UN Chronicle featured a special supplement on international co-operation in crime prevention and treatment of offenders.)

Economic and Social Council holds second session in Geneva

Impact of changes in Eastern Europe discussed



Secretary-General (centre) with Council President C.R. Gharekhan of India.

The Economic and Social Council held its second regular session in Geneva from 4 to 27 July, against the backdrop of sweeping political and economic change in Eastern and Central Europe. Aided by a panel of high-level experts, the 54-member body devoted one full day to an informal exchange of views on the integration of those countries into the world economy.

In a session devoid of confrontation and marked by "a greater convergence of views and a pragmatic approach", according to Council President C.R. Gharekhan of India, the Council adopted 171 resolutions and decisions on subjects ranging from transnational corporations and African fisheries to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

Many had been previously discussed and approved by Council subsidiary bodies such as the Commission on Human Rights and the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control. That allowed the Council to focus a great deal of time and energy on a few key issues.

The state of the world economy, recent UN efforts to regain momentum for development in the third world and the impact on developing countries of the transition in Eastern and Central Europe were among those that commanded the widest attention.

The early resolution of the debt problem and the reversal of negative trends in the transfer of resources were also recognized as major issues.

Other key issues discussed were the centrality of the human factor in development, the protection of the environment as a necessary element of sustained development and the role of the UN system in the world of the 1990s and, in this

context, the revitalization of the Council itself.

In a report, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar recommended that the Council "provide more analytical and more focused documentation", and give "more professional and functional consideration to issues on its agenda".

"Extraordinary developments..."

In the opening address, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar told the Council that "the extraordinary developments in the political arena that have dramatically narrowed the ideological differences between East and West have the potential for helping to achieve greater harmony in international economic and social relations".

He urged the body to see how "this renewed political will can make a positive contribution to the elaboration of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade". The Secretary-General also stressed that the external debt of developing countries—one of the most crucial issues of the 1980s for them—now stood at \$1,200 billion, a crippling weight on their economies.

The Council reviewed the conclusions of the *World Economic Survey 1990*, an annual analysis of the global economic situation, in its traditional debate on international economic and social policy. This survey examined the external economic factors and the social situation in the developing countries, inflation, stabilization and economic reform in China, Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and Viet Nam. It also analysed the factors behind the prolonged economic expansion in the developed market economies.

In summarizing the debate, Council President Gharekhan said

that developing countries, while welcoming the changes in Eastern Europe, were apprehensive about the diversion of development resources to that region. Industrialized countries, on the other hand, reiterated their commitment to economic and technical co-operation with the South.

Against apartheid

The Council condemned those transnational corporations that continued to collaborate with the South African régime, in defiance of UN resolutions and international public opinion. It also condemned the decision of the United Kingdom to lift unilaterally the ban of the Commission of the European Communities on new investments in South Africa and called on that country to rescind its decision without delay.

Food aid for Palestinians

The World Food Programme was requested to provide food assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory. The Secretary-General was asked to prepare a report on Israeli land and water policies in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

Drug abuse control

A report by the Secretary-General on the UN system-wide action plan on drug-abuse control was also reviewed by the Council. The report dealt with the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control and the role of the UN system's drug control units.

In 1989, the Fund implemented 115 projects in 50 countries, with a budget of \$62 million divided in the following manner:



Food aid readied for distribution in Gaza.

- 34 per cent to reduce illicit supply;
- 33 per cent to reduce illicit demand;
- 25 per cent to strengthen control measures; and
- 0.8 per cent to research.

The Council affirmed the need for the full implementation of the Global Programme of Action on international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs.

Capital punishment

The Council reviewed a report of the Secretary-General on capital punishment, the latest in a series of five-year reports. The report analyses the use of and trends in capital punishment since 1984, as well as legal changes and other initiatives on the subject. In the period under review, an increasing number of countries had abolished capital punishment. Other countries had adopted a policy of reducing the number of capital offences or had reported not imposing death sentences on offenders.

Chernobyl nuclear accident

Gerald Hinteregger, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), reported on the Chernobyl accident, listing the aid received thus far from agencies and programmes.

M'Hamed Essaafi, United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, told the Council that despite the post-accident decontamination and agro-chemical and land improvement operations, the situation in the Chernobyl disaster area remained serious. In the Byelorussian SSR alone, radioactive contamination of varying density had occurred in a territory inhabited by 2.2 million persons and including 27 cities and towns.



UN Photo/54910R. Writin

The Council urgently appealed to all Member States and the United Nations system to continue or initiate efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident.

Screw-worms, locusts, grasshopper infestations

The Council welcomed the establishment by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) of the Screw-worm Emergency Centre for North Africa to co-ordinate an eradication campaign. FAO was urged to strengthen its campaign to eliminate the screw-worm from North Africa and the Mediterranean parts of Europe and the Near East, through the sterile insect technique, the only available and proven eradication method.

FAO was also asked to help countries control the desert locust and to reinforce existing structures and current technologies which contribute to preventive control, such as ARTEMIS (Africa Real Time Environment Monitoring using Imaging Satellites).

Fisheries in Africa

African States were urged to develop joint research programmes to evaluate and monitor shared

fishery stocks. The goal was to better integrate the fishery and aquaculture sector into national economies. An intra-African information network on fishing vessels operating illegally should be set up and, taking due account of international law, legal measures to exclude such vessels should be proposed. In other economic-related action, the Council urged all Governments to implement the guidelines for consumer protection and to co-ordinate consumer protection policies and programmes.

Economic and humanitarian assistance

The Council called on all States to contribute to the reconstruction of Yemen and to continue assistance to displaced persons in the Sudan through Operation Lifeline Sudan.

Expressing its awareness of the deteriorating socio-economic conditions of the Lebanese people and the magnitude of their unmet needs, the Council appealed for "continued and intensified mobilization of all possible assistance to the Government of Lebanon in its reconstruction and development efforts".

The Government of Iran should also receive all possible assistance for the reconstruction of the stricken areas in northern Iran.

Human Rights

Tackling an ambitious and varied agenda, the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its forty-second session (Geneva, 6-31 August) recommended that the General Assembly launch a third decade in 1993 to combat racism and racial discrimination.

The 26-member body—a subsidiary of the UN Commission on Human Rights—considered issues relating to measures to combat racism and *apartheid*, human rights violations in various parts of the world, administration of justice and human rights of detainees, rights of indigenous populations and minorities, the promotion of human rights, the new international economic order, and slavery and slavery-like practices.

It also continued on-going efforts to encourage the examination of traditional practices that affect the health of women and children. In all, 34 resolutions and 26 decisions were adopted.

The session was marked by attention to developments in the Gulf, which elicited an appeal to Iraq from the Sub-Commission to allow all foreigners to leave Iraq and occupied Kuwait. It also called on all those participating in the embargo against Iraq not to prevent deliveries of food and medicines to that country.

The Sub-Commission recommended that the Commission on Human Rights in 1991 study the evolution of the human rights situation in Iraq and consider the appointment of an individual of recognized international standing as Special Rapporteur, with the mandate to examine the human rights situation in that nation.

Sub-Commission recommends third decade against racism



UN Photo 155066/M. Grant

Promoting the rights of indigenous populations...

The Sub-Commission also was kept apprised by the Canadian Government of the situation concerning the land dispute between the Canadian and Quebec authorities and the Mohawk Nation.

Although the Sub-Commission welcomed the release of South African political figure Nelson Mandela and some other political prisoners in that country, as well as the partial lifting of the state of emergency, it appealed to South Africa not to proceed with the execution of several opponents of *apartheid*. It called on the international community to continue its efforts aimed at the total economic, cultural and political isolation of South Africa until Pretoria abandoned its policy of *apartheid*.

The Sub-Commission took another step towards dealing with the rights of people infected with the human

immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and those suffering from acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) by calling for further reports on the subject and consideration of earlier reports at its forty-third session.

At its thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 6-24 August), the 18-member expert Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which monitors the application of the 1969 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by its States parties, examined measures taken to eradicate racial injustice in 21 countries.

The Human Rights Committee, at its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 9-27 July), examined steps taken by San Marino, Tunisia, Viet Nam and Zaire to implement provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights.

'Agenda 21'

Foundation laid for 1992 Conference on Environment and Development

The ground-breaking UN Conference on Environment and Development, scheduled to meet in Brazil in 1992, should be convened at the highest political level—that of Heads of State or Government—the Preparatory Committee for the Conference recommended at its first substantive session (Nairobi, 6-31 August).

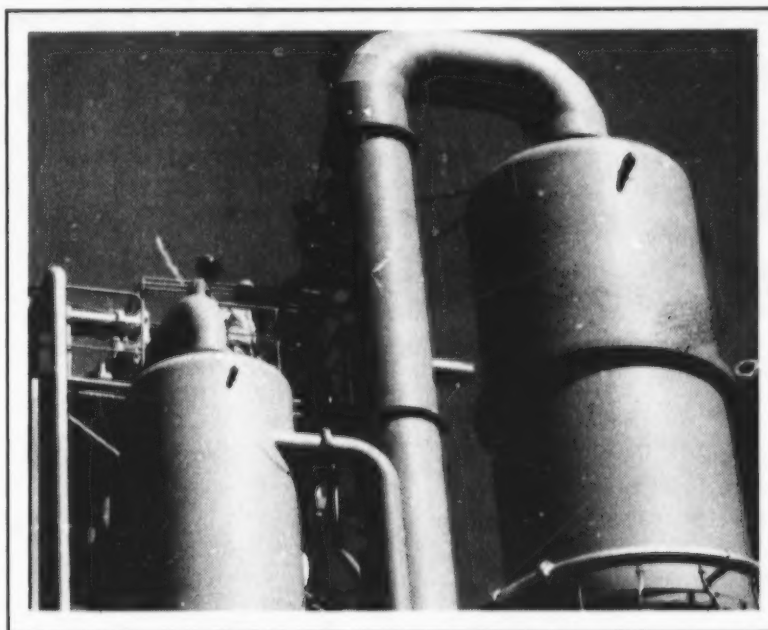
Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of the Conference, proposed that the world meeting agree on an *Earth Charter* and a "prioritized agenda" to be known as *Agenda 21* to implement it.

The *Earth Charter* would be a set of principles for the conduct of peoples and nations towards each other and the Earth.

Agenda 21 would not be an action plan in the traditional sense, Mr. Strong explained. Rather, "it would provide the framework for a continuing process of review and revision". It would also include a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of various sectors and constituencies which must be engaged in, and committed to, the action process, such as industry, transport, energy, agriculture, urban affairs, trade unions, science, education, culture, women, youth, indigenous peoples, etc.

The goal would be "to ensure the security of the resources and life-sustaining systems of the earth and the progress and well-being of all its people in the twenty-first century and beyond", he stated.

He also proposed that the Conference provide a forum for the signing of environment-related conventions and approve measures to finance action under *Agenda 21*,



Clean Industries, sustainable development . . .

ensure that all have access to environmentally sound technologies, strengthen existing institutions and develop co-ordination and collaboration among them. Those measures should particularly take into account developing countries.

The Preparatory Committee discussed in depth Mr. Strong's proposals and asked him to present a more detailed report at its second session, to be held in Geneva from 18 March to 5 April 1991.

Acknowledging that the deterioration of the environment had been caused predominantly by patterns of production and consumption that were unsustainable, the General Assembly, at its forty-fourth session in 1989, decided to convene an international forum that would integrate the relationship between environment and development into

every aspect of economic life and behaviour.

As the Assembly also acknowledged in its resolution calling for a Conference, it was clear that for development to be managed responsibly, the issue of funding for developing countries had to be addressed.

An important step in the right direction was taken on 17 September, two weeks after the Preparatory Committee session ended. In New York, the heads of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank signed a joint statement pushing for agreement on a \$1 billion Global Environmental Facility that would help poor nations in their development "in a manner which protects the global environment".

World Summit



UNICEF/Eastman Kodak Co.

The largest gathering of world leaders ever.

The World Summit for Children, held on 29 and 30 September in New York, provided a historic forum for discarding myths about development and proposing new ideas for redressing the sorry plight of children worldwide.

Seventy-one Heads of State and Government—the largest such gathering ever—assembled at UN Headquarters to throw their countries' weight and commitment behind this remarkable effort to save the lives of at least one third of the 14 million children under the age of five who die each year.

The Summit, proposed last year by six leaders—Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada, President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, President Moussa Traoré of Mali, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico, then Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson of Sweden—desired “to bring attention and promote commitment, at the highest political level, to goals and strategies for ensuring the survival, protection and development of children as key elements in the

socio-economic development of all countries and human society”.

After two days of tightly-scheduled formal and informal meetings, the world leaders appended their signatures and moral commitment to a formal document that sets the guidelines for bold new initiatives on children. The World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for implementing the World Declaration in the 1990s sets a new global agenda for the well-being of children.

'A moral commitment'

The Declaration is a moral and joint commitment, an acknowledgement of the changing international political climate and an exposition of the challenges, tasks and opportunities that lie ahead. The Plan of Action is a practical guide for national governments, international and non-governmental organizations, bilateral aid agencies and other sectors of society to ensure

the implementation of the Declaration's specific principles.

The Action Plan sets specific goals for children and development in the next decade:

- Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of under-five child mortality rate by one third or 70 per 1,000 live-births, whichever is less;
- Reduction of maternal mortality rate by half;
- Reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among under-five children by half;
- Universal access to safe drinking-water and to sanitary means of excreta disposal;
- By the year 2000, universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children;
- Reduction of the adult illiteracy rate to at least half of its 1990 level with emphasis on female literacy;
- Improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances.

This extraordinary document is proof of the emergent ethos of a new UN that is focusing more on the qualitative aspects of human development rather than the

for Children

quantitative indices that for decades have been the marker for global economic progress. By giving development a human face, the summit symbolizes a fundamental shift in attitudes in the way global resources should be allocated.

At the Summit, world leaders established "the principle of first call" for children—a commitment that the essential needs of children should be given high priority in the allocation of resources, in good times or bad, in peace or war.

The costs of implementing the Declaration have been estimated at \$20 billion a year for the next decade, including \$7.5 billion a year to meet basic health and educational needs. Most of the money is expected to come from developing countries themselves, with \$4 billion to \$6 billion of annual external assistance needed from industrial countries.



UNICEF Photo/5062/68

'The world's most precious resources...'



UNICEF Photo/David Barbour

'For a change in their lives...'

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada, Co-Chairman of the Summit, said in the General Assembly Hall: "Today may represent the beginnings of a change in the lives of the world's children. Today in this Hall, they may finally have found the voice and the friends they have long

been seeking." But the real challenge was political. "Funding", he said, "is important but it is not, in the end, the decisive factor in the war on child suffering. Political will is."

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar told the world leaders that their Summit represented a com-

mitment at the highest level to build a world order that would guard the most precious resource of the human race: its children. It would be a world not ravaged by violent conflict, disfigured by poverty, plagued by crime or scarred by repression.

Poverty is the main enemy of children, he declared. "Hunger, disease, illiteracy, despair—these constitute the enemy's fearful train." There is no way in which issues relating to children can be segregated from the issues of overall social and economic environment.

"Children personify the world's future. In ensuring their welfare, we transcend all divisions of the present. We participate in the shaping of human destiny. This unique occasion should serve as inspiration to that end", the Secretary-General stated.

By Tunji Lardner

WHO predicts dramatic rise in global AIDS toll

—Women and children newly affected—

By Anne-christine d'Adesky



WHO Photo/206803, Hernandez-Claire

AIDS prevention: Street children in Mexico City are advised by a woman who has herself tested sero-positive.

An estimated 8 to 10 million people globally will contract the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes the acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the next 10 years, a new study by the World Health Organization (WHO) predicts. That figure marks a significant and alarming rise of 2 million more people than WHO's projections last year.

Equally dramatic are statistics showing that HIV is spreading fast among women and children in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. An estimated 3 million women will develop AIDS in the 1990s and at least 80 per cent are in sub-Saharan Africa, WHO suggested. By the end of 1992, there will be 1 million HIV-infected children born to these women. AIDS will become the leading cause of death of women aged 20 to 40 in some cities of central Africa.

"It's obvious that HIV infection is continuing to spread very rapidly in parts of the world like central Africa, where AIDS is having a devastating impact on individual

countries", said Dr. Michael H. Merson, Director of WHO's Global Programme on AIDS (GPA), in a recent interview.

"It's also frightening to see the jump in HIV infection elsewhere, such as among certain groups in Thailand and India", added Dr. Merson. "There, even though the actual AIDS cases are low, HIV is clearly beginning to make its mark, and that means it is already a serious problem."

The WHO study, published in the 28 July edition of *The Lancet*, a leading medical journal issued in London, highlights the shifting pattern of HIV transmission in the world. During the first years of the

HIV/AIDS pandemic, infection occurred primarily among homosexual men, intravenous drug users and hemophiliacs in North America, Western Europe and Oceania.

Since the mid-1980s, however, the virus began to spread rapidly among heterosexually active groups in sub-Saharan Africa, parts of the Caribbean and Latin America. The latest WHO data show that Asia can be added to the list, with an HIV seroprevalence rate of 50 per cent among female prostitutes in Thailand and India.

WHO's earlier estimates put the number of women and children

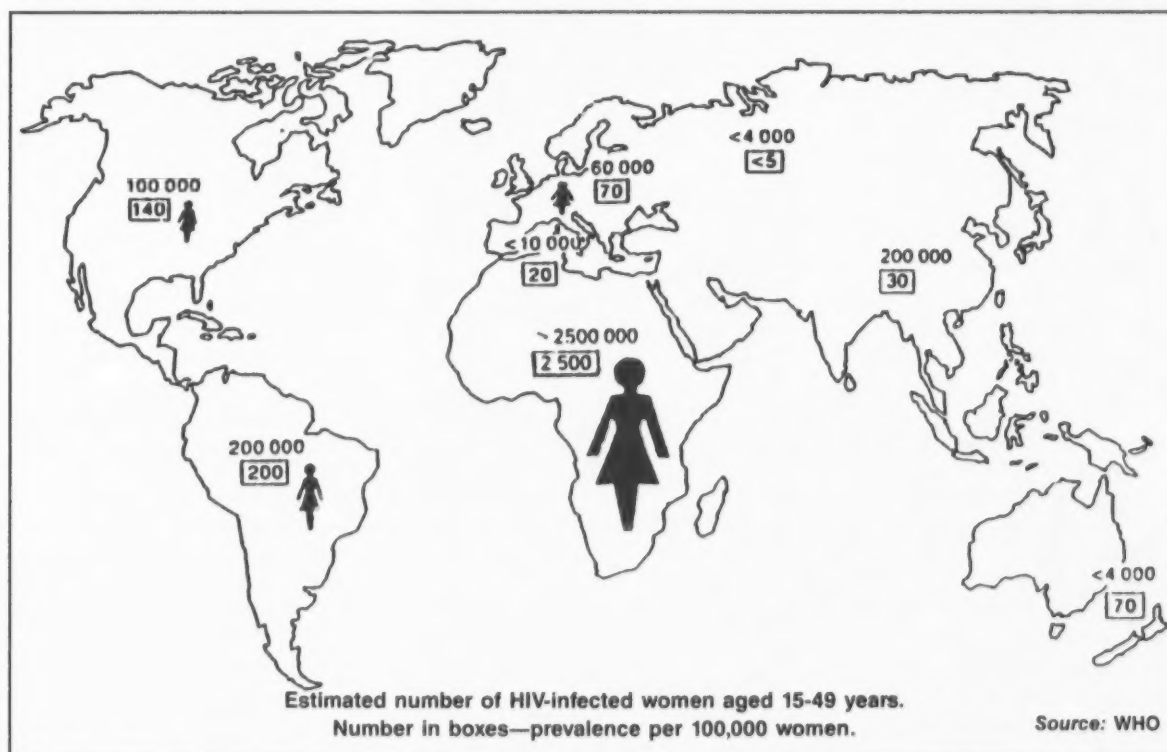
of pregnant women in several central African cities are infected with HIV, which means that HIV infection may jump sharply among children born in these areas in the next few years. The report predicted that "life expectancy at birth in many sub-Saharan cities may fall by about six years. Infant and child mortality could be as much as 30 per cent greater than would otherwise have been expected".

More disturbing yet is that these figures are considered conservative by AIDS-surveillance experts. "These are crude estimates at best", said Dr. James Chin, head of the

material on which to base the new projections.

"The new study is based on data we've been collecting since 1987", Dr. Chin said. "In 1987, if you look at the estimates of seroprevalence, the data was very limited. So we started pulling the data together from 1987, 1988 and 1989, and it forced us to revise." Dr. Chin acknowledged that the new WHO data could be interpreted "either as a marked increase or an underestimation of the problem earlier, during that 1987-1988 period".

Echoing Dr. Merson, he added:



with AIDS at 500,000 cumulative cases during the 1980s, with some 2 million women and children with HIV. Those figures are now viewed as too low. Using more precise evaluation methods, current WHO estimates suggest that 3 million women of childbearing age will develop AIDS in the 1990s.

Recent surveys by the agency also suggest that 10 to 20 per cent

GPA forecasting unit. "If anything, we're probably underestimating the numbers. Most experts in the AIDS area feel they are all conservatively low."

In a telephone interview, Dr. Chin, in explaining the unexpected sharp rise in WHO's analysis of the global AIDS toll, said that a new database on HIV and additional serologic surveys had provided

"It is quite clear that all the trends are markedly upward." Despite an apparent "levelling off" of HIV infection among some groups, such as white homosexual men in the United States, the virus was raging almost wildly among others.

"It's true that we have seen some levelling off in certain places, for example in Kinshasa, Zaire, where 6 to 8 per cent of pregnant women

women are infected with HIV", Dr. Chin said. "That situation seems to be stabilizing" but, he cautioned, "in other areas, we're seeing 20 to 30 per cent of adults who are HIV infected. Nor do we know if the changes in Kinshasa are due to behavioural changes or education, or, to be frank, if the virus has somehow run its course in that population."

The WHO analyst added that, barring any unforeseen changes or cure, his projection of the grim picture for AIDS was accurate. Regarding hardest-hit Africa, he added: "I don't see levelling off in sub-Saharan Africa for one or two decades." He noted that HIV was only now spreading to the rural areas of Africa.

Experts working in the field of AIDS have noted that one of the greatest obstacles to prevention is the general lack of basic health care in the developing world, as well as among the poor in urban cities of Western Europe and the United States. For example, Dr. Patricia Klozer, a leading AIDS researcher studying the impact of the disease on women, recently stated that based on current epidemiological data on AIDS cases among women in New Jersey in the United States, a poor, black woman living there has the same chance of contracting HIV as a woman living in Côte d'Ivoire.

In Zaire and Tanzania, a lack of resources and medicine compounds the gravity of AIDS. As Dr. Merson noted: "In many of these countries, the health budget calls for one dollar to be spent per person per year—total. There isn't any money to buy medicine, even if the supply of medicine existed."

He said the agency's AIDS programme was therefore focused more on prevention than treatment, although WHO was working closely with government health ministries to promote studies on promising agents and therapies to fight AIDS.

"We provide material to national

AIDS programmes, and make available what we can", Dr. Merson explained. "But, from the standpoint of a public health issue, the AIDS problem in Africa is so complex you have to keep your top priority on prevention, while still trying to give quality care."

Dr. Merson also noted that the AIDS profile was different in Africa than in Asia. "In Asia, we have the chance to try to prevent infection and link our effort to other sexually-transmitted diseases." He said that in Africa, where HIV was



Dr. Michael H. Merson

ravaging entire populations, "the emphasis is necessarily going to have to be on basic care and social issues. With all the orphaned children that are going to be left on their own, we have to face who is going to provide for their care, their school fees, etc. We have to help the families and the communities."

The most common national AIDS education programmes developed for Africa and Asia stress condom use among sexually active heterosexuals. But again, lack of resources has also limited the success of the battle against the spread of HIV.

So has, what Dr. Merson termed,

"a kind of denial" of the threat AIDS poses on government leaders. As he explained, lack of resources is often set in opposition to a relatively low incidence of AIDS cases on the national agenda.

"In some countries, there is still a need for them to appreciate what might be coming. One of the problems we face is the long period of infection. In India, for example, they may not see AIDS as a priority, because they don't have cases yet. But we know from experience what to expect. It's a matter of saying to them, 'well, if you don't deal with this now, you're going to pay the price later'. These are very difficult issues."

Without a cure for AIDS in sight, the only approved treatments are the drugs Azidothymidine (AZT) for HIV and standard sulfa drugs for *Pneumocystis Carinii* pneumonia. Unfortunately, access to these medications is severely limited for people with AIDS in Africa and Asia. Even in the United States and Western Europe, AZT is a very expensive option.

Given the clear and chilling global picture for AIDS, Dr. Merson said his agency is working closely to promote better use and distribution of sulfa drugs in the developing world. WHO is also financing drug development studies for promising agents in these countries.

"It's important not to lose sight. There are certain things we can do", said Dr. Merson. "If we just focused on tuberculosis, which is what is killing most Africans with AIDS, we would already be making an important step. We have to be realistic and work with the resources we have."

A top priority for WHO will be to advocate global unity to fight AIDS. Dr. Merson said he hoped to persuade international leaders of the pharmaceutical industry to lower the cost of drugs like AZT and work together with national governments to supply and distribute medicines in the developing world.

Pediatric AIDS now considered a global threat

Millions expected to become orphans

Alarming projections by the World Health Organization (WHO) show that the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) will become the number one killer of children in sub-Saharan Africa during the 1990s, making pediatric AIDS a major global threat. By the end of 1992 alone, almost a million infants born there will be infected by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

While this region of Africa will be hardest-hit, AIDS will also become a global pediatric killer elsewhere, based on the fast spread of HIV among heterosexuals in Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States.

Based on a recent WHO study of the AIDS pandemic, it is estimated that by the year 2000, 10 million infants and children globally will have been infected with HIV and most will have died of AIDS.

Equally chilling is the WHO forecast of an additional 10 million uninfected children under the age of 10 who will be orphaned by the end of this decade due to the death of their parents from AIDS.

"We can't underestimate the tragic impact of AIDS on these families", said Dr. Michael H. Merson, Director of WHO's Global Programme on AIDS, in a recent interview. "We're already dealing with a terrible situation with AIDS in Africa. There are some basic care and social issues involved because this disease affects the entire community. Who's going to assume responsibility for taking care of these abandoned children?"

The majority of projected cases of pediatric AIDS and uninfected orphans will be found not only in poor, urban areas of sub-Saharan Africa, but also increasingly in rural communities as well. Based on WHO epidemiological reports

confirming a continued spread of HIV infection among heterosexuals in the developing world, the international agency now estimates that 1 in 40 adult men and women in sub-Saharan Africa has contracted HIV, compared with earlier estimates of 1 in 50.

What this may lead to is a tripling of the adult mortality rate in the urban sub-Saharan region and a child mortality rate as high as 50 per cent during the next decade. AIDS threatens to wipe out the significant gains made in child survival in the 1980s, the WHO reports suggest, and may lower life expectancy at birth in many sub-Saharan cities by six years, based on several HIV infection/AIDS models.

While the population growth for cities in this region is expected to remain positive over this period, it

may become negative beyond the year 2000 if the current trends hold.

"The challenge to health, to social services, and indeed to the whole of society, is enormous", said Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General of WHO, referring to the surge in global pediatric AIDS cases. "As a result of child survival programmes, we have seen major reductions in child mortality. Now, because of AIDS, we fear this progress will be reversed."

—A. d'A.

**WORLD AIDS DAY,
on 1 December 1990,
will focus on women
and AIDS**

**A 10-month-old
African boy has been
diagnosed HIV-positive.
He weighs 11 pounds.**



UNICEF Photo 2741/89/D. Clement

The 'Night Delegates'

Tip-top and tidy at UN Headquarters

By Elsa B. Endrst

Some of them, depending on their working hours, are affectionately called "the night delegates"—part of the 150-member crew of dedicated men and women from 50 nations who strive daily to keep UN Headquarters in New York in tip-top operating condition.

They are the porters, cleaning women, electricians, elevator operators and other manual and maintenance workers who see to it that the world Organization's house is kept clean and tidy day and night.

Nicanor (Nick) Feliciano, in charge of the Custodial and Contractual Unit of the Buildings Management Service, says it is not always an easy task. Because of the diversified nationalities of the staff, there are often unusual management problems. Security requirements, he went on, could almost be compared to those of the White House, because of the number and level of world dignitaries who pass through the UN halls daily.

Contracted by the UN through Ogden Allied Maintenance Services, a private international company, the entire UN maintenance crew belongs to the Service Employees International Union, which represents all custodial workers in New York City.

Iraqi-born Ali Hilly, manager of the 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. night shift (the "night delegates"), speaks with pride of his international staff.

The "night delegates" are also privy to a wide variety of cultural habits, without even meeting the Secretariat staff they service. In the typing pool, the cleaners report that they can often tell by a waste basket where members of certain nationalities are seated. Arabic staff members often leave pistachio shells, while the wastebaskets of Chinese nationals frequently contain empty rice containers. The Russians, it has been noted, leave little garbage behind.

"These are unique people of different cultures who have a good understanding of other people's problems", Mr. Hilly explains. He recalls that, during the 1950s and 1960s, the custodial staff was largely made up of Eastern Europeans, Spaniards and Middle Easterners. In the 1970s, there was an onslaught of Albanian-speaking Yugoslavs from the Kosovo Province, as well as emigrés from Egypt and Iraq.



Nicanor Feliciano (left), Peter Cusanelli, Florence Smith.

UN Photo

Today's staff includes Afghans, Bulgarians, Chinese, Colombians, Czechs, Koreans, Poles, Russians, Turks and Vietnamese.

Who are these people and what requirements must they meet?

"A person who really needs a job and who is able to do the work—and, of course, who is honest", Mr. Hilly replies.

Italian native Peter Cusanelli has worked on the maintenance staff at UN Headquarters for some 40 years. As a special "floater" on the maintenance staff, he pitches in wherever he is most needed. "You deal with 'higher people', so you've got to pay extra attention", he proudly says. He is often called upon to help out at the Secretary-General's private residence.

Their often unappreciated hard work includes, among other chores, disposing daily of up to 600 bags (30 cubic yards) of garbage.

The honesty and integrity of the custodial staff have been proven repeatedly. Not too long ago, one cleaning woman found a bag containing \$34,000, which had been left in the UN branch of the Chemical Bank. She quickly reported it to her supervisor who contacted

a surprised and relieved bank manager.

Some years ago, then Secretary-General U Thant said that on a clear day, he could see peace from his thirty-eighth floor window. A UN window cleaner now apparently endeavours to sustain that vision by keeping those same windows crystal clear. He recently characterized his labours this way: "Working in high places to give people a clearer view of the world."

What's going on around here?

Florence "Sissy" Smith, an American from the New York City area, married to a now-retired UN security guard, has worked at the UN for 30 years. This lively lady, who operates the prestigious "visitors' elevator" at UN Headquarters, recalls visits from such world leaders as Nikita Khrushchev, Fidel Castro, Pope John Paul II and eight United States Presidents. Ms. Smith takes the Secretary-General and his

visitors to the thirty-eighth floor. Proudly, she relates an anecdote about then United States Vice-President Bush, a former UN Ambassador. He broke away from his entourage during a return visit to Headquarters, especially to greet her by name. When she thanked him for remembering her, he quickly said to his entourage: "If you ever want to know what is going on around here, just ask the elevator operator."

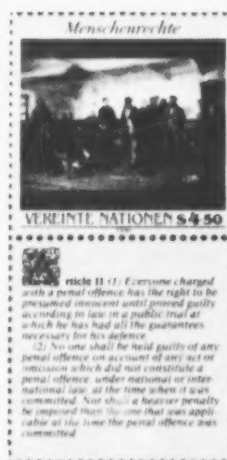
The UN Postal Administration (UNPA) on 16 November issued a set of six stamps depicting Articles 7 to 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A set of six stamps was issued in 1989 depicting the Declaration's first six Articles. As the Articles will be issued chronologically, collectors wishing to obtain the entire 30 Articles of the Declaration will have to purchase the six values issued each year for five years.

With the help of major museums and art historians around the world, an important work of art has been chosen to represent each of the Declaration's Articles.

Articles 7 and 8 of the Declaration appear on the United States 25-cent and 45-cent stamps, respectively, while Articles 9 and 10 appear on the Swiss franc (SwF) 0.35 and 0.90 stamps. Articles 11 and 12 have denominations of Austrian schilling (S) 4.50 and 7. The stamps measure 33 x 33 millimetres, perforation to perforation: 13 1/2 x 13 1/2.

Stamps may be ordered by writing to: UN Postal Administration, P.O. Box 5900, Grand Central Station, New York, New York 10163-9992, U.S.A. While most commercial stamp dealers sell UN stamps, they can only be used on mailings at UN postal stations in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

UN Stamp Corner



Chronicle BookWatch

The Blue Helmets: A Review of United Nations Peace-keeping, Second edition

UN Publications, New York, 1990
449 pp., Sales No. E.90.I.18 ISBN 92-1-100444-6

Since *The Blue Helmets* first appeared in 1985, UN peace-keeping operations have been undertaken in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Iran and Iraq, Angola, Namibia, and Central America. The publication of this revised and much expanded edition of a book about UN efforts that often caught the world's attention could not be more timely. A straightforward narrative and analysis, accompanied by appendices of charts, data and maps in a well-designed format, it demonstrates once again just how good UN books can be.

Global Outlook 2000: An Economic, Social and Environmental Perspective

UN Department of International Economic and Social Affairs
UN Publications, New York and Geneva, 1990
340 pp. \$19.95. Sales No. E.90.II.C.3
ISBN 92-1-109118-7

For the student of world development, this book will serve as a basic guide through the 1990s. Chapters consider economic trends, environmental issues, energy, agriculture, new technologies, production and trade, population, human settlements, education, health and social policies. Based on research and projections conducted in the UN system, *Global Outlook 2000* is written for the non-specialist. Charts and tables contribute to the clarity of a stimulating and forward-looking work, but readers will regret the absence of an index.

Blue and Beautiful: Planet Earth, Our Home

Ruth Rocha, Otavio Roth
UN Publications, New York, 1990
44 pp., \$7.95. Sales No. E.90.I.15 ISBN 92-1-100441-1

Two creative Brazilians make the basic concepts of sustainable development and environmental protection understandable to the child of seven or eight. In their

second UN book designed for children, writer Ruth Rocha and artist Otavio Roth convey key ideas in simple language and colourful prints. "People everywhere want to lead a better life, and it is only right that they should", *Blue and Beautiful* says. "Governments should work together to plan the proper use of the resources that belong to us all, because we all live in the same home—the earth." With children thinking such thoughts, a new world is in the making.

World Resources 1990-91

A Report by the World Resources Institute in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme and the UN Development Programme, Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford, 1990
383 pp., ISBN 0-19-506229-9 (paper)

The fourth in a series of comprehensive guides to management of natural resources and the protection of the environment, this volume marks the start of what is to be an ongoing collaboration between WRI, UNEP and UNDP. While the UN agencies gave information and advice, "final responsibility for substance and editorial content" rested with WRI. A rich work deserving to be read and studied, the book is a persuasive example of what the UN and non-governmental organizations can accomplish through co-operation.

Palestinian External Trade under Israeli Occupation

UN Conference on Trade and Development, Geneva
UN Publications, New York, 1989
141 pp., Sales No. E.89.II.D.10 ISBN 92-1-112276-7

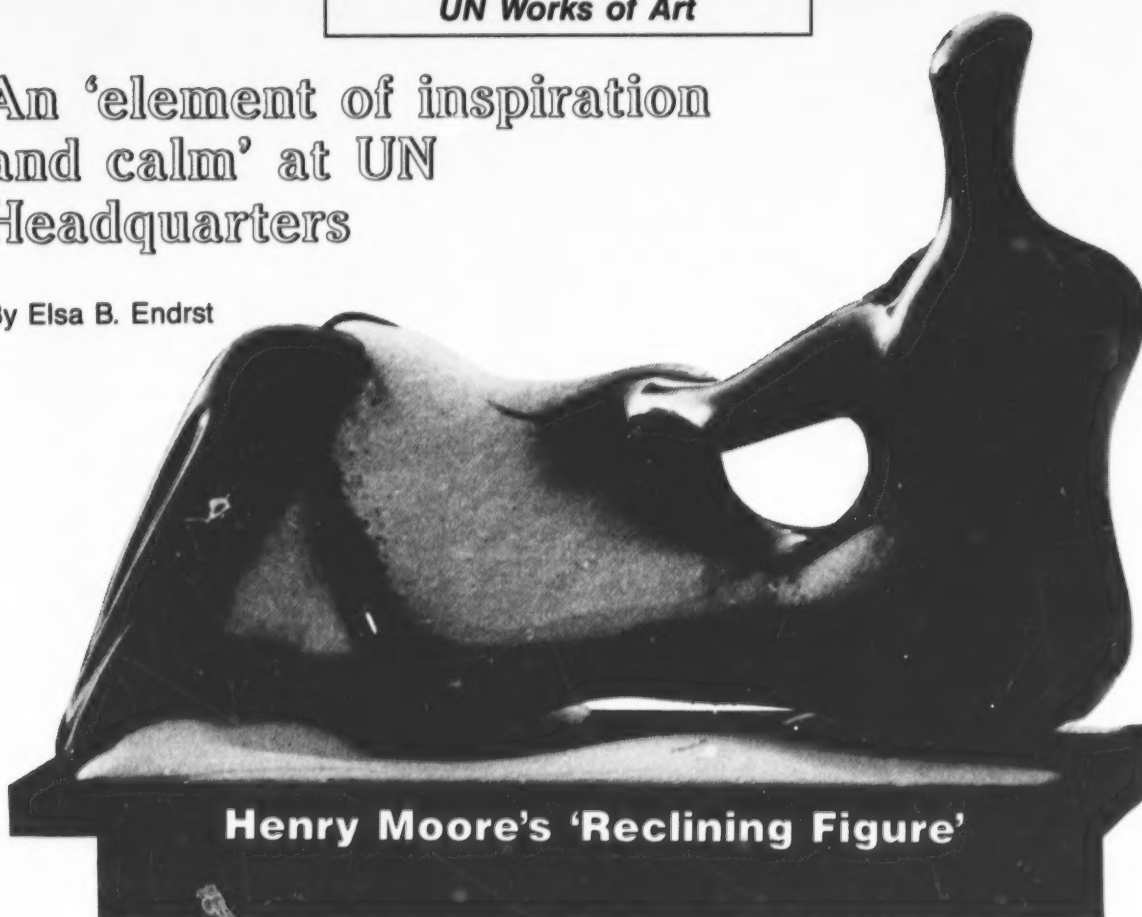
As this insightful study shows, the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza had significant impact on their long-existing trade links with the world. UNCTAD reviews the Palestinian economy and external trade under Israeli occupation and offers recommendations for amelioration. The study concludes that "as an initial step, the Israeli military orders and related measures, which have been introduced in the territory since 1967 and which have stifled economic activities at all levels, need to be rescinded. The recent harsh economic measures introduced since the beginning of the uprising, and which have contributed to the rapid deterioration of Palestinian trade, require urgent reconsideration."

**Reviewed by Harold Fruchtbaum,
Professor, Columbia University, New York**

UN Works of Art

An 'element of inspiration and calm' at UN Headquarters

By Elsa B. Endrst



Henry Moore's 'Reclining Figure'

UN Photo 155551/M. Grant

It was at the 1982 dedication ceremony of the Henry Moore sculpture, "Reclining Figure", that Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar eloquently expressed the significant role art can play in the life of the United Nations.

"I think it is important for the Headquarters of the world Organization progressively to acquire representative works of art from all parts of the world, especially the works of contemporary artists", he said.

"Harmony is not always, unfortunately, the prevalent characteristic of our life and work here. But the presence of great works of art, such as the one we have received today, certainly provides us with an element of inspiration and calm. I hope that the pleasure we gain from such works may also help to give us the perspective and perception which are so necessary in our difficult task here."

Before his death in 1961, then UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, who took particular pleasure in beautifying the UN Headquarters in its early years, had discussed the possibility of installing a Moore sculpture on UN grounds. More than 20 years after his

original request, it finally became a reality.

Works of art from around the world abound at Headquarters. More than 130 gifts of art have been presented to the UN by its Member States. They range from small paintings to huge tapestries, from delicate wood and ivory carvings to heavy bronze doors and from ancient Indian and Egyptian art dating back more than 30 centuries to contemporary art from many exotic cultures, embellishing the halls and meeting places of the international compound.

Rated high among these art treasures are the nine great murals that adorn the walls of the Headquarters building—the work of

artists from France, Brazil, Norway, Sweden, the Dominican Republic and the United States. The best known are undoubtedly the twin murals of Fernand Léger on each side of the General Assembly Hall, which were presented to the UN by the American Association for the United Nations. Among the last of his works, these murals were designed in small sketches by Léger and executed in 1952 by one of his students, American artist Bruce Gregory.

In the south lobby near the delegates entrance of the General Assembly building are two murals—"War" and "Peace"—each measuring 34×46 feet by Brazilian artist Candido Portinari. Completed in 1955 and 1956, respectively, "War" is executed in dark, morbid colours, while opposite, "Peace" is painted in warm, colourful pigments.

The Security Council chamber is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful rooms at Headquarters. Designed by Norway's Arnstein Arneberg (his Government contributed the decor and furnishings), the dominant attraction of the room is the 16×26-foot mural by Norwegian artist Per Krohg. It, too, depicts many symbols of war and peace.

Man's struggle for peace and freedom from superstition is the theme of Jose Vela Zanetti's mural on the third floor of the Conference building. The Dominican artist painted it directly on the canvas-covered curved wall in 1952.

In addition to the conventional murals at the UN, two mosaics are on display. A third-century Tunisian work, discovered at Haidra a quarter of a century ago, was presented in 1961 by President Habib Bourguiba.

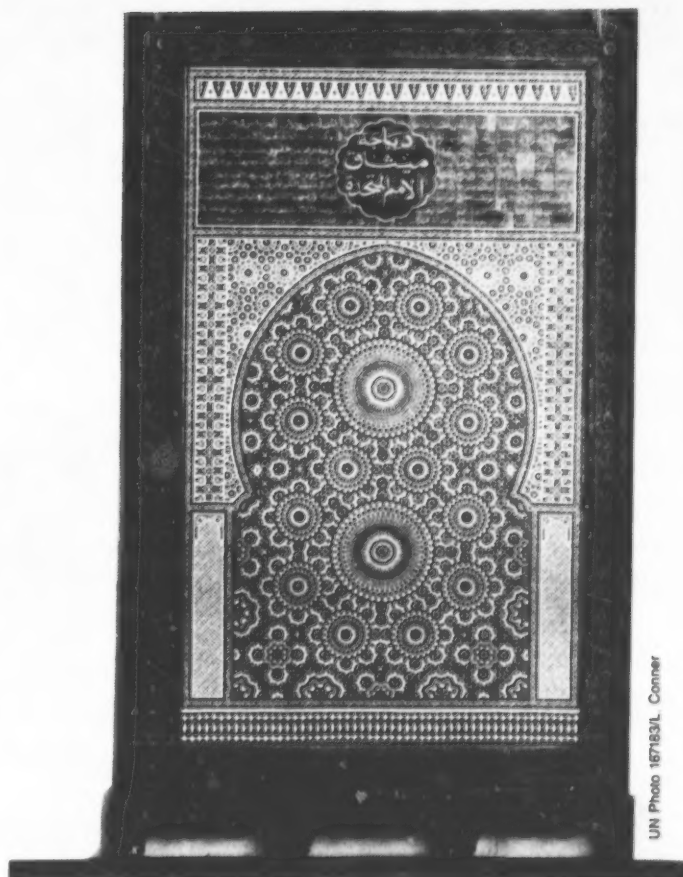
The second mosaic panel, a gift of Morocco, was created by a Fez artist and formally presented by King Hassan II on 3 April 1963. It is done in traditional, twelfth century Andalusian style.

Among the many outstanding

works created from wood are the two Balinese sculptures from the Government of Indonesia. These three-foot-tall figures represent "Peace" and "Prosperity". They stand in a small lounge outside the General Assembly Hall, commonly known as the "Indonesian Lounge" and favoured by diplomats for private chats. The satinwood "Peace" work is by an anonymous Balinese artist; "Prosperity", created by I Made Runda, depicts a woman, wearing the large earstuds of wealthy Balinese, carrying on her head a rice basket surmounted by an image of Devi Sri, the goddess of rice, who is also goddess of prosperity.

Upon entering the public lobby, visitors' attention is immediately drawn to the Foucault Pendulum, a gift from the Netherlands.

Detail of twelfth century mosaic from Morocco.



UN Photo 167183/L. Conner

Suspended from the four-story-high ceiling and moving perpetually without mechanical aid, it offers visual proof of the earth's rotation. Nearby is a model of "Sputnik 1", the first satellite ever launched into space by the Soviet Union in 1959. A chunk of the moon rock, brought back to Earth by the United States Apollo II crew after their 1969 moon landing, is also displayed here.

Most commanding in this area is a 15×12-foot stained-glass panel by renowned French artist Marc Chagall, symbolizing man's struggle for peace. Dedicated to the memory of Secretary-General Hammarskjöld and 15 others who died in a 1961 plane crash in Africa, it was

financed by UN staff members. The window, with its predominantly blue tones, expresses the simplicity of the ideal of peace and brotherhood for which the UN was founded, it has been said.

According to the UN guides who conduct up to 80 tours daily through Headquarters, it is the ivory carving of the "Chengtun-Kunming Railway", one of two gifts from the People's Republic of China, which attracts the greatest attention and admiration of visitors. Weighing more than 150 kilograms, the work depicts in great detail the railroad winding its way through forest and mountains. It was carved from eight ivory tusks and stands on a massive oak base.

China's other gift, presented to the world Organization in 1974, is a 5x10-metre rug tapestry, depicting the "Great Wall". It is prominently displayed on one wall of the Delegates North Lounge.

In 1983, the UN Buildings Management Service had a great deal of trouble hanging the Curtain of Holy Kaaba, a symbol of civilization and brotherhood. A gift from Saudi Arabia, it is a heavy black silk cloth, embroidered in gold and silver threads, which originally hung at the door of the Holy Kaaba in Mecca. It measures 3.20x6.20 metres and is mounted on a frame of 4.75x7.5 metres. The embroidery includes verses from the Koran.

"Triumph of Peace", a Belgian tapestry mural, hangs in the Delegates' lobby of the General Assembly building. The work of 14 artist craftsmen, it is said to be one of the largest tapestries in the world (43x28 feet). Woven, using 94,000 miles of yarn—enough to encircle the world two and a half times—its predominant colour is green, the universal symbol of life and peace.

Generally considered to be among the best pieces of the UN art collection is a Picasso tapestry based on a painting, "Femme sur

l'échelle"—"Woman on a Ladder"—a 1985 gift from Mrs. Albert D. Lasker of the United States. Executed by Pablo Picasso in the 1930s, it hangs in the Delegates South Lounge. Nearby is another tapestry fashioned after a Picasso work, the famous mural "Guernica", whose theme deals with the destruction of that town during the Spanish Civil War. It was lent by Mrs. Nelson A. Rockefeller of the United States.



A detail of the carved-wood figure of Peace donated by Indonesia in 1954.

The original painting hangs in the Prado in Madrid.

The most recent gift to the United Nations is a 39-foot-high statue depicting St. George slaying the dragon—presented on 16 October by the Soviet Union to mark the forty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. Created from fragments of Soviet SS-20 and United States Pershing nuclear missiles destroyed under the terms of a 1987 bilateral treaty, it stands in the gardens north of the General Assembly building.

As the UN celebrated its fortieth birthday in October 1985, the United States presented a colourful mosaic inspired by a Norman Rockwell painting. Entitled "The Golden Rule" ("Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"), it depicts faces of persons from many ethnic and religious groups around the world.

Outside the second-floor entrance to the Economic and Social Council is one of two gifts from Iran (the other a Persian carpet)—a replica of an ancient clay tablet inscribed with Cuneiform letters. The original "Edict of Cyrus" dates back to 539 B.C. and is in the British Museum.

Iraq presented the Organization with a replica of an original stele of "The Codes of Hammurabi", formulated by the King of Babylon some 1700 centuries before the birth of Christ. These oldest written legal codes known to man advocate, for example, "the cause of justice to prevail in the country ... to destroy the wicked and the evil ... that the strong may not oppress the weak".

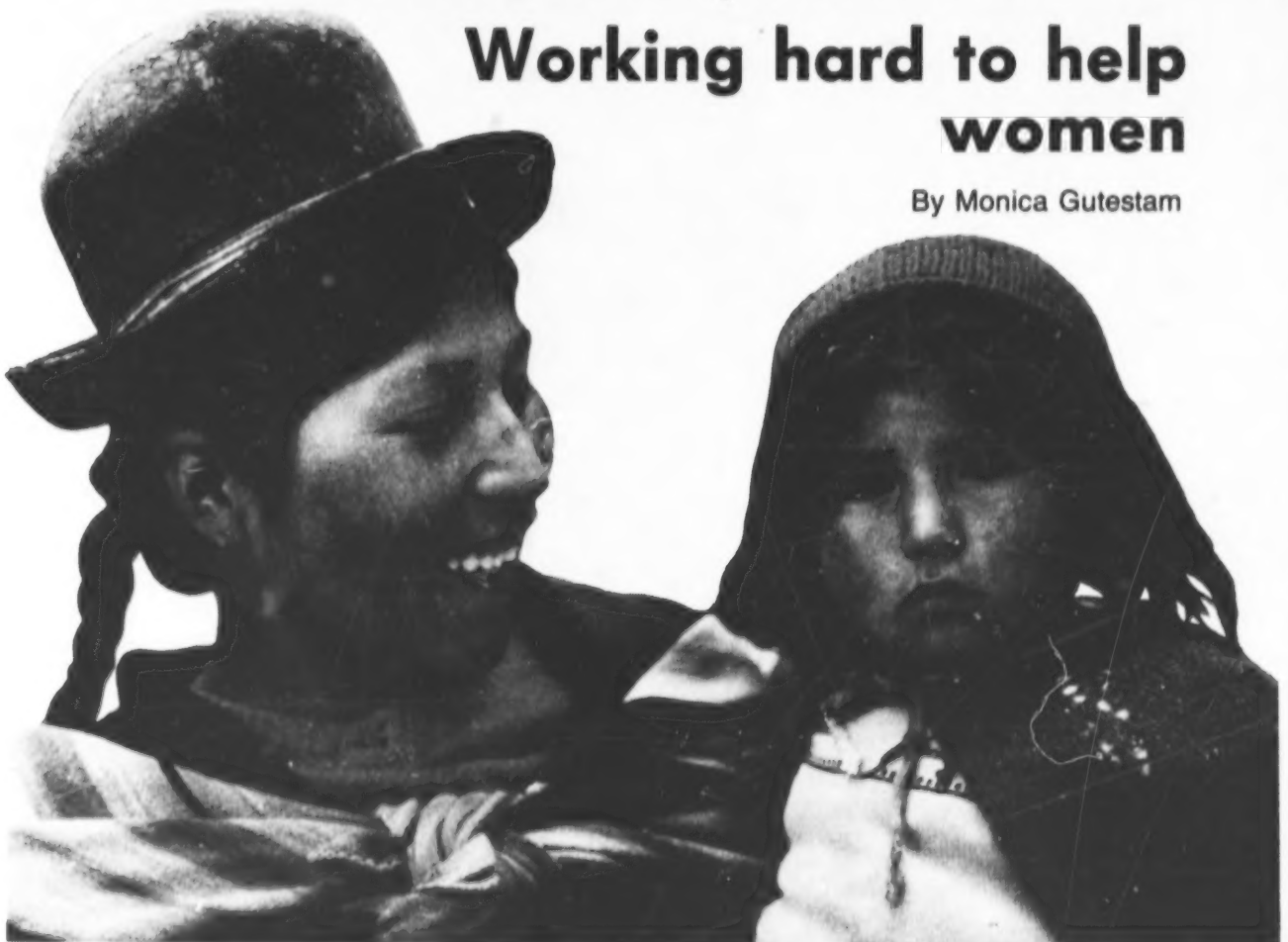
There are many other art treasures in the UN, some accessible to the public, some not. But it is clear, even to a visitor, that the Member States that have donated these precious works to the Organization wish to have UN Headquarters reflect the beauty, artistry and historic glory of their different cultures.

A Look Back...1980

INSTRAW—10 years old

Working hard to help women

By Monica Gutestam



UN Photo 155246/J. Isaac

Women make up more than half of the world's population, perform two thirds of its work, receive one tenth of its income and own less than one hundredth of its property. Each woman's household work adds up to an additional month of work a year. Women grow about half the world's food, but own little land, often find it difficult to obtain loans and are overlooked by agricultural advisors and projects. In times of

economic recession, women are the first to be laid off. Few countries provide maternity benefits. More than one third of the world's households are headed by women who are usually at the bottom of the income ladder. Many women in developing countries survive by working in the "informal sector" of the economy, virtually unprotected by labour laws. Working hard to change these statistics, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of

Women (INSTRAW), a small UN agency with headquarters in the Dominican Republic, celebrates its tenth anniversary this year.

The Institute's research, training and information exchange activities are geared to help integrate women into development. INSTRAW also formulates development strategies to further the advancement of women.

"Women make an enormous contribution to development, and yet they are generally viewed as burdens or passive beneficiaries, not as assets. Research and training are absolutely essential to change these notions", says Ms. Dunja Pastiz-Ferencic, Director of INSTRAW.

The Institute, an autonomous UN body, is directed by a board of trustees, nominated by UN Member States and then approved by the Economic and Social Council.

Research projects conducted by the Institute focus on different aspects of women's relationship to the economy. For example, in 1986, INSTRAW collaborated with the UN Statistical Office in a 592-page *Compendium of Statistics and Indicators on the Situation of Women, 1986*. These reports provide technical guidance for producers and users of statistics on women at the national, regional and international levels.

To reach as many women as possible in the developing countries, INSTRAW conducts training workshops, covering issues such as development planning, women in development, water supply and sanitation. For maximum efficiency, specific audiences are targeted—from development practitioners to non-governmental organizations staff and UN field staff. These target groups are then able to transfer their newly-acquired knowledge to their own communities. For their workshops, INSTRAW provides them with training packages containing self-teaching modules and audio visual teaching aids, as well as its own up-to-date data on the status of women worldwide.

Through its workshop and training activities, INSTRAW is trying to sensitize Governments and other policy makers to women's issues.

Throughout its history, INSTRAW has been closely connected to grassroots women's groups everywhere. In fact, the Institute itself is, in many ways, a product of the groundswell of global awareness about the status of women that started in the 1960s. Women inside and outside the UN system pushed for the International Women's Year (1975) and the three international women's conferences—Mexico (1975), Copenhagen (1980) and Nairobi (1985). The Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, adopted in Nairobi, urged

Governments to "give special attention to women in the peripheral or marginal labour markets" such as those in unstable, temporary work or unregulated part-time work, as well as to the increasing number of women working in the informal economy.

One of the most important projects being carried out by INSTRAW is measuring women's real contribution to the gross national product. The Institute demonstrates that women are not a vulnerable group of welfare and social cases, but rather the backbone of society, and that the work women perform in the informal sector should be included in statistics.



TASS Photo X-102877Y. Belozorov

Women participate in the world's work force at all levels.

NEWS ALMANAC

Dumping waste into sea: It could be worse

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has been successful in reducing the amount of waste disposed of into the sea.

William A. O'Neil, Secretary-General of the IMO, said on 27 September that some 1.5 million tonnes of oil get into the sea each year as a result of shipping operations. But that figure would have been a great deal worse without IMO, the London-based specialized agency of the UN dealing with shipping safety and the prevention of marine pollution. The agency had prevented 10 million tonnes of oil from being disposed of into the sea each year from tank-cleaning and ballasting operations.

Mr. O'Neil, in a message on World Maritime Day—whose theme this year was *Cleaner Oceans: the role of IMO in the 1990s*—said the dumping into the sea of various wastes, such as sewage sludge, had also decreased and the dumping of other substances was being subjected to increasingly rigorous controls.

Polls in Norway, USSR favourable to UN

Results of recent public opinion polls conducted in Norway and the USSR, on behalf of the UN, show that citizens of both countries give high marks to the world Organization. Norwegians are generally impressed with the performance of the UN and almost everybody in Norway knows about the Organization. They are well-acquainted with the UN and its related institutions or bodies, the survey shows. The Organization's role in maintaining world peace received very high commendation from Norwegians.

In the USSR, the world body is well known and favourably thought of by most, and there is a high level of awareness of the UN and familiarity with its institutions or bodies. Soviet citizens are convinced that the Organization is doing a good job in carrying out its functions. The UN's increased involvement in settling international conflicts is highly recognized by Soviet citizens.

Science and technology on screen

The first in a series of UN-sponsored television documentaries, focusing on how science and technology can help nations develop, was to be seen at a special presentation at UN Headquarters on 20 November.

Singapore in the Information Age, a half-hour documentary showing how Singapore has transformed itself from provider of cheap labour to modern industrialized nation in less than a generation, was created by an award-winning team put together by Executive-Producer Doris Wan Cheng.

The programme was co-produced by the UN Centre for Science and Technology for Development, headed by Assistant Secretary-General Sergio C. Trindade, and Global Alliances, Inc., Ms. Wan Cheng's Chicago-based company. It received strong support from the UN Department of Public Information, the Centre for Transnational Corporations, the Business Council of the UN and the Singapore Economic Development Board.

An island-state of 2.6 million people with a skilled, dependable work-force, Singapore has attracted some 3,000 transnational corporations (TNCs). The documentary explores Singapore's dynamic national effort to upgrade its human resources and build its own development capacity, as well as its successful co-operation with TNCs.

The documentary features interviews with UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew, economists John Kenneth Galbraith and Milton Friedman, United Nations Development Programme Administrator William Draper III, UN Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation Antoine Blanca and Mr. Trindade, among others.



Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar (left),
Ms. Wan Cheng and Mr. Trindade.

Secretary-General paints 'bleak picture' of UN's financial situation

The United Nations is currently owed more than \$1 billion from its Members, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar reported on 16 September.

"This is the bleak picture at a time when many hopes and expectations are being placed in the work of the United Nations", he observed.

On 4 September, it was reported that the United States owed some \$522 million to the Organization. South Africa—the second largest debtor—owed the Organization nearly \$41 million, Brazil, \$18 million and Iran, \$12 million.

Appeal for resumed relief to Liberia made

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar on 13 September expressed deep concern over the intensity of fighting in Monrovia, capital of Liberia, which made it impossible for the UN to resume its "much needed relief operations" in that West African nation. Meanwhile, emergency aid for the more than 500,000 Liberian refugees in neighbouring countries would continue.

He also renewed his appeal to the "warring factions" to respect the human rights of the population, halt the "senseless slaughter", negotiate their differences peacefully and allow safe passage for relief supplies. Throughout the crisis, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar repeatedly appealed for the protection of the civilian population.



**Crime Prevention
Victimized:**

It seems somewhat ironic that an original painting, created by the prominent Spanish artist Manolo Valdes for a World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) first day cover (and limited edition of art prints), which accompanied the UN Postal Administration's (UNPA) stamp issue on the theme of crime prevention, should be stolen en route to New York from Spain.

The artist's eight-year-old daughter Regina, however, philosophically found consolation in the fact that she considered her father's second work "much better" than the first. The feisty young girl served as translator during a festive WFUNA luncheon in her father's honour on 13 September. In all probability, she broke several records as the youngest translator ever to have served at UN Headquarters.

Standing in front of the UNPA exhibit and Mr. Valdes' painting *Velásquez como Pretexto* during the luncheon are, from left to right: Mr. Anthony Fouracre, newly-appointed Chief of UNPA; Mr. Per Sjorgren, Director of the Office of General Services; Mrs. Annabelle Wiener, Director of the WFUNA Office at Headquarters; Mr. Manolo Valdes and his daughter Regina.

Coming Up . . .

A preview of some important United Nations conferences and events

January—March 1991

New York

1 January-1 February	Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
4-13 February	Statistical Commission, 26th session
5-8 February	Economic and Social Council, organizational session
27 February-8 March	Population Commission, 26th session
February	UNDP—Governing Council, organizational meeting and special session
February—March	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space—Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, 28th session
February—March	Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development, 11th session
4-15 March	Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, 9th session
11-28 March	International Civil Service Commission, 33rd session
21 March	Special Committee against <i>Apartheid</i> —Special Meeting in Observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
25 March-4 April	Committee on Natural Resources, 12th session
25 March-12 April	Human Rights Committee, 41st session
March	Committee on Information, organizational session
March—April	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space—Legal Sub-Committee, 30th session
March—May	Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Geneva

21-29 January	UNCTAD—Committee on Transfer of Technology, 8th session
28 January-8 March	Commission on Human Rights, 47th session
February—April	Conference on Disarmament, first part
4-22 March	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 40th session
11-22 March	UNCTAD—Trade and Development Board, 37th session, second part

Vienna

14-25 January	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 10th session
30 January-8 February	Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 34th session
13-22 February	Commission for Social Development, 32nd session
27 February—8 March	Commission on the Status of Women, 35th session

Other Locations

18-22 February	INSTRAW—Board of Trustees, 11th session, Santo Domingo
March	Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok
March—April	Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, 9th session, Kingston
March—April	ESCAP, 47th session, Bangkok

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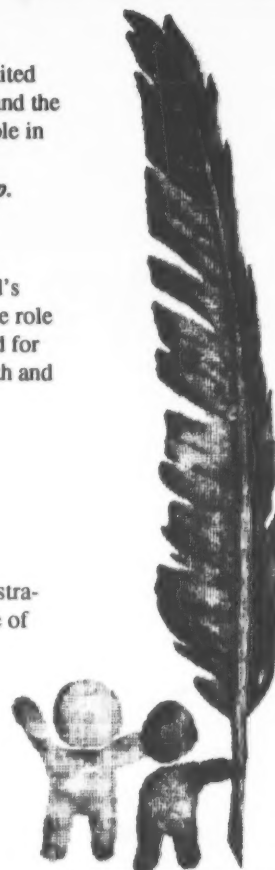
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